

Yeltsin postpones Japan visit

MOSCOW (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin Wednesday indefinitely postponed a trip to Japan, scuttling immediate hope for ending the tug-of-war over the four Kurile islands seized by the Soviet Union after World War II. Mr. Yeltsin had been facing growing pressure from Russians who worried that he would agree to return two of the islands to Japan in exchange for large-scale economic aid (see page 8). Mr. Yeltsin's press office issued a statement that blamed the delay merely on "a number of circumstances." It did not elaborate, but said the Russian foreign minister had been instructed to continue talks with Japan. "The president's decision does not affect good neighbourly relations with both these states," the statement said. The disagreement over the Kurile islands has been the major stumbling block in relations between Russia and Japan. The Soviet Union and Japan never signed a peace treaty formally ending the war. Mr. Yeltsin's four-day visit had been scheduled to begin on Sunday. Earlier in the day, Mr. Yeltsin met with members of his security council. A member of the panel, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the trip was postponed because of the "psychosis in Japan" which is not helping a constructive solution.

Jordan Times

Independent Arab political daily
المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية (الراي)
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية
Press Foundation

Israel wants Egypt's help in peace talks

CAIRO (R) — Israel is expected to ask Egypt's backing in a request to upgrade the level of representation at multilateral Middle East peace talks, an Israeli diplomat said Wednesday. Israel, whose Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin is due in Cairo Friday, also wants Egypt's support for picking up the pace of the talks, now held for several days every few months. "Israel is interested in upgrading representation and might ask Egypt to help with the other Arabs," the diplomat said. Adding that Israel wants foreign ministers to attend the talks, feeling they could make quicker progress. When the multilateral talks opened in Moscow in January the participants were represented at ministerial level. But that level dropped to ambassadors, ministerial assistants and experts when the committees began their meetings. Israel also has made an offer to attend meetings of all five of the multilateral committees if the heads of the Palestinian delegations are not members of the Palestine National Council, the diplomat said. He said the deal had been rejected by the Palestinians.

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Jordan beats Kuwait in Arab basketball

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's national basketball team Wednesday defeated the Kuwaiti national team 85-73, and qualified for the finals of the basketball competition of the seventh Pan-Arab Games hosted by Syria. Earlier Jordan beat Saudi Arabia 77-71 and Egypt 82-80.

Gunmen kill communist activist in Algeria

ALGIERS (R) — An Algerian communist opposed to Muslim fundamentalism was shot dead Wednesday, the first political activist killed amid attacks on security forces and government officials. The Avant-Garde Socialist Party said gunmen were waiting for Abdul Rahman Belzhar outside his home in the eastern city of Constantine and opened fire as he emerged at 7:30 a.m. (0630 GMT). The party strongly opposes the fundamentalist movement whose extremists have been blamed for killing at least 110 members of the security forces since last February. It said Mr. Belzhar, who worked at Ain El Bey University, was "assassinated by bullets fired by a group of terrorists."

Iranian opposition reports clashes

NICOSIA (AP) — Mujahadeen-Khalq, the Iraq-based Iranian opposition group, said Wednesday that the paramilitary Revolutionary Guards suffered many casualties in a recent clash with army deserters in north Tehran. They said in a statement telefaxed to the Associated Press in Cyprus that the shootout was sparked by a rebellion in a military post near the Saadabad Palace, the former residence of the late Shah of Iran which was transformed into a museum after the 1979 Islamic revolution. The Mujahadeen's statement said reports they had received from Tehran indicated that "a large number" of Revolutionary Guards were killed trying to put down a rebellion at a regular army outpost next to the palace.

Rafsanjani in China

PEKING (AP) — Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani arrived in Peking Wednesday for a four-day state visit, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported. Mr. Rafsanjani met with Chinese President Yang Shangkun for general discussions, Xinhua said. The Iranian president is scheduled to hold a news conference Thursday. Mr. Yang travelled to Tehran late last year on the first official visit to that country by a Chinese head of state since 1979 Islamic revolution.

Turkey accused of repressing Kurds

LONDON (R) — The head of the British parliament's human rights group Wednesday accused Turkey of systematic military repression of its Kurdish minority. An attack by Turkish forces on the southeastern town of Sirnak was "the most blatant in a series of operations against the civilian population," Lord Avebury, chairman of the parliamentary human rights group, said. Lord Avebury visited the Kurdish region of south-east Turkey last week to investigate allegations of military violence against the Kurds after Turkish security forces clashed with Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) guerrillas in Sirnak last month.

2 Kham prisoners flee Israeli 'zone'

BEIRUT (R) — Two prisoners who escaped from Kham prison in Israel's South Lebanon "security zone" arrived in Beirut Wednesday, a Lebanese Communist Party spokesman said. He said Communist Party members Daoud Faraj and Mohammad Asaf fled from the "security zone" after escaping Monday and would give a news conference Thursday. Mr. Faraj, held for one-and-a-half years, and Mr. Asaf, for two years and seven months, escaped with two other detainees from Kham prison, six kilometres from the Israeli border. The two others were recaptured by Israel-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiamen Monday.

Rabin: Syria will have to accept a Golan 'deal'

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told opponents Wednesday they were foolish to think Israel could make peace with Syria without a deal on the occupied Golan Heights. In a stormy parliamentary debate, he said Israel and the Arabs entered peace talks 10 months ago based on U.N. Security Council resolutions that outline an exchange of occupied land for peace. "I haven't heard anyone going into peace negotiations with Syria based on these resolutions... who could interpret them as (meaning only) peace for peace — unless he is fooling himself," Mr. Rabin said amid interruptions by opposition Likud members. "With Syria the problem is peace and also perhaps, according to the Arab demand, territory," said Mr. Rabin, whose Labour Party toppled the right-wing Likud in a June general election. Speaker Shevah Weiss tried to keep Likud hecklers from interrupting the Israeli leader who later in his speech shook them off, telling Mr. Weiss: "Understand them, they're frustrated." Likud rejects any land-for-peace deal for the occupied territories. A hardline slogan has been that Israel would swap only "peace for peace."

Iraq denies U.S. charges that it is burning southern villages

IRAQ HAS dismissed U.S. charges that it was burning villages in the mainly Shiite south as propaganda inspired by Iranian lies. An information ministry spokesman said Wednesday that U.S. pilots policing the "no-fly" zone south of the 32nd Parallel were relying on Iranian disinformation and not their own surveillance. "It seems that not only the American pilots got bored and frustrated but also key Pentagon officials... who decided to take advantage of false Iranian reports..." said the spokesman in a statement handed to foreign reporters in Baghdad. The U.S. charged Tuesday that Iraqi troops were burning villages in the south as part of their campaign against Shiite dissidents hiding in the marshes. Last week the Iranian news agency IRNA quoted people living in border villages as reporting huge plumes of smoke above the southern marshes over which the U.S. and its allies have set up an air umbrella in an ostensible bid to protect Shiite dissidents from Iraqi air attack. It was Iran which made the allegations about the burning of villages, said the Iraqi spokesman.

with the Syrians under Likud Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. The talks reconvene in Washington next Monday. Mr. Rabin was quoted last week by cabinet sources as saying Israel did not have to cling to every centimetre of the strategic plateau overlooking the Sea of Galilee, but he did not elaborate. In parliament however, he vowed not to repeat the precedent of 1979 when a Likud government negotiated the return of the occupied Sinai Desert "to the last grain of sand" in return for peace with Egypt. Syria wants to regain sovereignty over the Golan Heights as part of any peace pact with Israel. Mr. Rabin said the two sides could have different interpretations of the U.N. resolutions — 242 and 338 — which also guarantee secure Middle East borders. At the same time, he derided the previous government's slogan of "peace-for-peace" as a euphemism for ceding no territory at all. "The idea of 'peace for peace' does not work where Syria is concerned," he said. "I never heard of anyone interpreting the Syrian reading of 242 and 338 as meaning peace for peace," Mr. Rabin said. Mr. Rabin's government has assured Syria that it sees the resolutions as applying to the Golan Heights. On Tuesday Syria's President

Hafiz Al Assad said he would never give up Syria's claim to the Golan (see page 2). In a speech that was supposed to last 10 minutes but stretched to 40 minutes because of sustained heckling, Mr. Rabin insisted his government would give peace every chance, without jeopardising Israel's security. He said the peace talks had gone nowhere with Mr. Shamir in office, whereas since he was elected and the peace talks resumed, "there is a beginning of dialogue" with Syria. The parliamentary debate came during a recess in the sixth round of U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace talks in Washington. Likud and two other right-wing parties, Tzomet and Moledet, brought the house out of recess to challenge Mr. Rabin's handling of the talks. Their motions were defeated 53 to 32. "This is a black day," Likud legislator Michael Eitan said. "This is the first time an Israeli prime minister has notified parliament that he will give up territory to which Israel law has been extended," Israel "annexed" the Golan Heights in 1981. Rafael Eitan, head of the hawkish Tzomet Party, said the Golan was essential to Israel's "security." "The prime minister says the border with Syria is our quietest



ROUSING WELCOME: Streets bedecked with banners and flags await His Majesty King Hussein, who is expected to return home next week after successful surgery in the U.S. (see more photos inside)

GCC endorses 'no-fly' zone, assails Iran over Abu Musa

Combined agency despatches
FOREIGN MINISTERS of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Wednesday declared their support for the "no-fly" zone enforced by a U.S.-led alliance over southern Iraq. It was their first statement since the exclusion zone went into effect on Aug. 27, although Kuwait has publicly applauded the action and Saudi Arabia is hosting U.S., British and French air teams. The GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates. After issuing their communique, the six ministers flew to the Qatari capital of Doha for a meeting with Egyptian and Syrian officials on plans for a joint security force. Plans for the unit, approved March 1991, have been held up over differences on the size, responsibilities and location for such a force. The GCC communique, issued at the end of a two-day meeting, blasted the Iraqi regime for "genocidal" measures against the Iraqi people. It also criticised Iran for recent steps to expand its control of the island of Abu Musa. Since 1971, Tehran has shared control of the island in the Strait of Hormuz with the UAE (see page 2). The communique said the ministers viewed the no-fly zone as "in line with the decisions of the U.N. Security Council and within the framework of the world community's eagerness to stop the genocidal measures the Iraqi regime is exercising against the Iraqi people." Earlier reluctance by GCC members to come out openly in support of the allied measures in Iraq had been attributed to fears of dismemberment of Iraq. The communique expressed "extreme keenness over Iraq's unity and territorial integrity."

It was read by Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, Kuwait's deputy premier and foreign minister. Kuwait currently holds the rotating chairmanship of the GCC. Relations between the GCC countries and Iran had been warming after Tehran's neutral stance during the Gulf war, but tension has risen over Iranian moves to increase control of Abu Musa. The GCC ministers called on Tehran to respect the memorandum of understanding governing shared presence with Sharjah, one of the seven emirates of the UAE. On Wednesday, Mostafa Fumani, director-general of Iranian Foreign Ministry, told reporters that an Iranian official had been dispatched to Sharjah to settle the dispute, Tehran Radio said. But Mr. Fumani referred to UAE nationals on Abu Musa as

(Continued on page 5)

Israel budget approved with settlement item

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's government has approved the draft 1993 budget Tuesday, bowing to demands by a coalition partner not to scrap an office devoted to helping Jewish settlers in the occupied territories. Interior Minister Arye Deri, of the Orthodox Shas party, had threatened to quit Mr. Rabin's coalition unless it reduced the number of cuts the budget made from religious institutions and Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The cabinet approved the \$7.7 billion shekel (\$40.7 million) draft late Tuesday after a marathon debate. It will be presented to parliament for ratification by Jan. 1. Mr. Rabin ousted hardliner Yitzhak Shamir in a June election with a vow to change national priorities by diverting millions of

dollars from the occupied territories back into Israel. He formed a Labour party-led government with the left-wing Meretz bloc and the small Shas Party. On Tuesday he came under fire from Meretz for ceding to right-wing, religious demands to keep his coalition intact. "The time has come for Labour leaders to realise we have a majority without Shas and must not cave into it on any issue," said Avraham Poraz, a Meretz parliament member. He gave in without conditions, Mr. Poraz told Israel Radio. "When I see where an additional 140 million are going — settlement in the territories, religious institutions... I wonder what we are doing in this sort of government," Mr. Poraz told Israel Radio. Finance Minister Abraham

Shohat brushed off the criticism, saying: "There is a price to pay for a coalition. At a given time the coalition's stability was at risk." In contrast to Mr. Shamir, who led a Jewish settlement boom, Mr. Rabin froze all new building of houses in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip — about 6,000 units. But citing legal obstacles, Mr. Rabin is allowing builders to complete about 11,000 units already under construction. The original budget draft virtually abolished a World Zionist Organisation (WZO) unit that has 40 million shekel (\$16.6 million) budget to help settlements in the occupied territories. On Tuesday Mr. Deri and the government reached a compromise to halve its budget to 20 million shekels (\$8.3 million) were added to the budget for

Shas demands, mainly in religious affairs. Treasury officials have conceded Mr. Rabin's promised reordering of national priorities was barely perceptible. Israel's central bank governor had called for more cuts in housing and defence spending. He said the budget did not do enough to spur economic growth and create jobs that would revive immigration from the commonwealth of independent states. According to the budget, unemployment will fall by only half a percentage point to 10.7 per cent next year. Defence is the biggest operating expense at about 17.5 billion shekels (7.3 billion). The Shas Party holds six of the 62 coalition seats in the government; 61 seats are needed to (Continued on page 5)

New bureaucratic changes, appointments criticised for failing to meet political, administrative expectations but government maintains what it is doing is right

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — When the Badran government made top personnel changes in its bureaucratic structures back in 1990 the appointments were dismissed as colourless, pointless and made simply for the sake of appearances. The new changes announced by the government of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker last week have not been attacked as vehemently by political pundits but they have been heavily criticised as failing to meet the minimum standards of a new administrative vision repeatedly promised by this government. Critics of the changes say that the Sharif Zeid govern-

ment has not only failed to apply the necessary administrative reform in its choice of candidates but also set the wrong political precedent by considering candidates' party affiliations and sympathies when making appointments. "Where is the administrative reform this government has been selling us since it took office?" a former senior official asked in direct reference to repeated pledges by the government to introduce change in its ranks and rid the system of nepotism by putting the "right person in the right place." The government is credited with a series of measures aimed at minimising bureaucracy in the ministries and government offices which deal with citizens. But this being the first change in its

senior personnel positions, critics say that not enough has been done to rid the country of the old policy of choosing candidates based on geographic and tribal considerations adding only the element of placing the religious body in the country this time. The government responds by saying that it has widened its choices and opened the doors for candidates who were never admitted into public posts before. It cites the example of newly-appointed ambassador Fayez Rabbie as an obviously new element in Foreign Ministry appointments. Mr. Rabbie was assistant secretary general of the Ministry of Higher Education and is said to be a member of the Muslim Brotherhood movement.

"The government cannot limit the ambassadorship appointments to the few Amman families and keep everyone else out," a government insider argues. Critics agree with the political rationale behind the government's thinking, especially in view of the onset of the multi-party system of democracy, but reject its applicability in this case. "I am also against limiting these posts to the big Amman families," the former senior government official said. "But if we want to fight this trend we would have to remove those who have been in those posts for years and replace them with new blood." He charged that the Rabbie appointment was a political move aimed at pleasing the

Islamic movement. Ambassadorships cannot be turned into "political opportunities for the different political parties," he said. "If we open this door then we will never be able to close it," a political analyst said. "Tomorrow we will have every party which gains any power vying for an ambassadorship or even a ratio equal to its influence on the local scene." The government insists that the appointment of Mr. Rabbie and others came in line with its declared policy of putting the "right person in the right place," and argues that too much emphasis is being placed on some of the candidates' political leanings — in this case the Islamists — without giving adequate attention to the person's abilities.

The government does not deny, however, that the political element did have its weight on its decision to appoint Islamists. "Achieving balance among the forces at play in society helps create social peace," a senior official maintains. Jordanian leftists oppose this line of thinking and argue that if this is really what the government wants to do then the left may also demand a ratio in government posts to reflect their strength in Parliament. "We can also play this game," a leftist deputy told the Jordan Times. A government supporter says that it would be "unconstitutional" to deny someone a public position because of his political beliefs and that all appointees should be treated

"according to individual merits." "We have broken the barriers of the past," another government supporter said in defence of the new appointments. "Now everyone in Jordan can reach any point and any position regardless of his or her political background." But even if the government were to add to the charge that it is allowing the Islamists to become part of the regime, it also maintains that by being contained within the government body the Islamists will necessarily have to adopt its "centrist" makeup and policies. "This is a moderate centrist political administration, everyone who joins it becomes that" (Continued on page 5)

Syria again rules out any concessions on Golan

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria wants every inch of the occupied Golan Heights returned as part of any peace pact with Israel, officials Wednesday quoted President Hafez Al Assad as saying.

"Syria will never give concessions on its land and rights," they quoted the president as telling a visiting 200-strong Druze delegation from the Heights, occupied by Israel in the 1967 war.

"Capitulation is not ... in our dictionary ... we want every inch returned," Mr. Assad told the Druze Tuesday night, the largest group allowed into Syria from the Heights since the war.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Monday there had only been a slight change in Syria's position in Middle East peace talks which adjourned last week and will reconvene on Sept. 14.

Syria has consistently said it wants all of the Golan returned.

"Even for total withdrawal from the Golan Heights, they are ready only for a peace agreement

but not for normalised relationship—not a peace treaty, not open boundaries, not embassies, not commercial and cultural relationship," Mr. Rabin said.

Mr. Assad's remarks appeared more in line with those of Mr. Rabin than those of acting U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger who said on Friday that Israeli-Syrian talks had made major progress.

"There's been major movement. The two sides still have some negotiating to do but it's a significant step forward," Mr. Eagleburger said.

Under Mr. Rabin, Israel has signalled it is willing to discuss withdrawal from the Heights but has not said how much of the strategic plateau it would be willing to evacuate.

Diplomats in Syria said the visit of the Druze to Damascus, which was arranged by the International Committee of the Red Cross, highlighted the loyalty of Golan people to Syria.

"We want the peace of

courageous people, the real peace ... which guarantees the interests of all," Mr. Assad told the Druze, whose visit was arranged to coincide with the anniversary of the death of a Druze holy man.

"We are working to achieve (peace) through our political struggle and through your struggle and rejection of occupation," said Mr. Assad.

Israel Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said he would back an Israeli referendum on a withdrawal from the Golan Heights but the government would first have to take a decision.

Mr. Peres said that only demagogues would promise to provide peace without paying a price.

Before adjourning their peace talks until Sept. 14, both Syrian and Israeli negotiators signalled some progress.

Israel told Syria it was committed to negotiating on the basis of U.N. resolutions which call for the Jewish state to withdraw from



Hafez Al Assad

occupied land in exchange for secure borders.

In a slight shift, the Syrian team later dropped its insistence that Israel withdraw from the Golan before any peace settlement. Instead, it said, Syria believes a "peace agreement" could be implemented simultaneously with an Israeli withdrawal.

Mr. Assad appeared to brush off Israel's decision in 1981 to "annex" the Golan plateau, suggesting it was reversible.

Iran says armed men held on Abu Musa

NICOSIA (R) — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani has said Iran has tightened control on an island it runs jointly with a Gulf Arab sheikhdom after arresting armed men who may have been involved in a "conspiracy".

Mr. Rafsanjani told a news conference in the Pakistani city of Lahore, Abu Musa Island, which it runs jointly with the Emirate of Sharjah, belonged to Iran, the Iranian news agency IRNA said.

"We have arrested a number of non-regional suspicious armed individuals on the island and believe that there may be a conspiracy," IRNA quoted Mr. Rafsanjani as saying.

"Therefore, we have ordered that non-UAE individuals be identified and brought under control. The matter is a security decision rather than a political one."

The report did not say when the arrests were made or give any other details.

Iran last month turned back a ferry with more than 100 mostly non-UAE Arab passengers from the island, saying they lacked Iranian entry permits.

Gulf-based diplomats said the action, following Iran's expulsion of several dozen foreign workers from the island in April, showed a creeping annexation of Abu Musa by Tehran.

Iran, which shares control of Abu Musa with Sharjah under a 1971 agreement, denied its action meant a change in the status of

the island which sits halfway between Iranian and UAE coasts near main shipping channels in the southern Gulf.

Mr. Rafsanjani said that the island belonged to Tehran and that nothing new had happened," IRNA said.

"The Iranian president made it clear that the residents of Abu Musa Island can continue to live as before and shuttle to and from the island," it added.

The Kuwaiti News Agency said Tuesday the UAE and its Gulf Arab allies voiced concern that the dispute over Abu Musa would strain relations between them and Iran.

The agency was reporting on a meeting of the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council comprising Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE — in the Saudi city of Jeddah.

IRNA said Iran's embassy in Abu Dhabi issued a statement saying 20 Sharjah citizens had arrived by ferry at Abu Musa on Sept. 3, a fact which showed Iran had no intention of barring UAE nationals from the island.

Iran pursued "expansion of good neighbourly relations" with Gulf states including the UAE, the statement said.

"The malicious moves of certain elements and circles which seek their own vested interests cannot harm deep relations and ties between the two countries," it added.

Washington disappointed with Lebanese elections

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The State Department expressed disappointment Tuesday with the elections in Lebanon, saying they were impaired by extremely low voter turnout in some areas and did not reflect a broad national consensus.

Spokesman Richard Boucher also noted reports of irregularities. Sunday's balloting was the final stage of the first parliamentary elections in 20 years.

Rightist Christians of the Maronite sect boycotted the elections, fearful that the process could convert the country into a Syrian satellite. About 40,000 Syrian troops are based in Lebanon.

"The United States is clearly disappointed that the elections were not prepared and not carried out in a manner to ensure the broadest national consensus," Mr. Boucher said.

He reaffirmed U.S. support for the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon and said Syrian troops should be redeployed to the Western entrance of the Bekaa Valley, consistent with agreements between the two countries.

"In our view, that decision should be taken by both governments this month, with redeployment occurring shortly thereafter and as soon as possible," Mr. Boucher said.

He said it also means the completion of the process of disarming all the militias, particularly Hizbollah. "We fervently hope that the Lebanese people and their government will renew their commitment to national reconciliation and to the unity and sovereignty of Lebanon," Mr. Boucher said.

"We will continue to support the expansion of the authority of central institutions of the Lebanese government and the Lebanese armed forces throughout Lebanon," he said.

The spokesman emphasised that "we strongly support the unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Lebanon and the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon."

"We also support the full implementation of both the letter and the spirit of the Taif agreement (among the Lebanese parties) and have made this clear repeatedly to all the concerned parties," he said.

Bush consulting allies on F-15 sales to Saudis

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. President George Bush, inching closer to authorising the sale of F-15 fighter jets to Saudi Arabia, said Tuesday he was consulting with allies on the matter. He pledged "Israel will not be neglected" in terms of maintaining its military superiority.

Mr. Bush said "no final decision" had been made on the F-15 sale. He stressed the word "final," suggesting an announcement may be near.

"We have made consultations," Mr. Bush said in a question-and-answer session after a speech to B'nai B'rith, an influential Jewish group.

In recent days, Mr. Bush has demonstrated a willingness to use military sales to help his troubled campaign for reelection, approving the purchase of F-16 jets by Taiwan, dropping longstanding opposition to spending \$1.5 billion on the V-22 Osprey aircraft and reversing course to upgrade the M1A tank.

In the F-15 deal, 7,000 military industry jobs are at stake at McDonnell Douglas plants, according to McDonnell Douglas spokesman Jim Reed. He said 1,000 people already have been laid off.

The Saudis have asked to buy 72 planes in a \$5 billion deal. Israel has indicated it will not fight the sale.

Mr. Bush is expected to campaign in Missouri Friday, and there is widespread anticipation that he will announce his decision then.

"I don't want to misrepresent it, consideration is being given to this," the president said. "Whether there's any difference between the parties for this election on this question I don't know. But I can guarantee you, the qualitative edge that Israel has will not be neglected."

Negotiations are underway with Israel on an offset agreement that would help Israel maintain its military advantage.

Saying that he wanted "to put a little political spin on this," Mr. Bush said that Democratic rival Bill Clinton campaigned in St. Louis with a pledge of support for the F-15 sale.

Inviting a comparison with Mr. Clinton, Bush said that "a president has to look at the overall



George Bush

security requirements, and that's exactly what I'm doing right now. ... I will think it all out, make my decision and call it the way I see it. Like that, unimpeded. The buck does stop on that desk in the Oval Office and you have to make tough calls sometime."

Saudi Arabia, which joined with the United States in Gulf war coalition against Iraq, wants the planes to beef up its own security in a region that is still deeply unstable.

Saudi Arabia is not part of multilateral peace talks with Israel. In addition, Saudi Arabia is officially in "a state of war" with Israel and is engaged in an economic boycott of Israel, B'nai B'rith president Kent Schiner pointed out to Mr. Bush as he asked the president for his stance on the sale.

A senior defence official, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters he did not expect any announcement on a possible sale of the jets to Saudi Arabia before the November presidential election.

The request by the Saudis for the jets is a controversial one because of the administration's public calls for major arms-selling countries to cool the Middle East arms race.

Mr. Bush demonstrated last week, however, that foreign policy goals would not necessarily get in the way of arms sales if they would help the U.S. economy and win him support.

He dropped his normally solicitous attitude towards China to approve the sale of 150 F-16s to Taiwan, winning the enthusiastic cheers to thousands of weapons factory workers in Fort Worth, Texas, where the planes are built.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Djibouti to legalise opposition, hold polls

DJIBOUTI (R) — The Djibouti government said Wednesday it will legalise opposition parties this month and hold multi-party elections in November. The announcement on Radio Djibouti coincided with a report of fresh fighting between troops and rebel forces in the tiny Red Sea state. Senior government officials said two policemen and a soldier were killed in a south-western region dominated by the rebel Front for the Restoration of Unity and Democracy (FRUD). There were no reports of rebel casualties and the officials did not say when the deaths occurred. The fighting broke out less than a week after Djibouti citizens gave an overwhelming "yes" vote for a new multi-party constitution. A government statement on Radio Djibouti said opposition parties would be legalised on Sept. 20 and the first multi-party elections would be held on Nov. 20. "The approval of the new 11 years will give us the opportunity to legalise opposition constitution will give us the opportunity to legalise opposition parties on Sept. 20," the statement said. It said Djibouti had entered a new era of pluralist democracy after the referendum. The vote brought Djibouti into line with the tide of multi-party reform sweeping Africa. The new constitution will curb the powers of President Hassan Gouled Aptidon, in power since 1980, and establish an independent judiciary.

Shamir warns against arms sales to Iran

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, on his first trip to Ukraine, warned Wednesday against selling arms to Iran. "Iran has proclaimed its hostility towards Israel and we're obliged to say to countries having friendly relations with Iran not to sell arms to Iran," Mr. Shamir told a news conference at the end of a three-day visit. "We will discuss this in our conversations with the Ukrainians ... and we will try to secure satisfactory results," said Mr. Shamir, who during his visit met with Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk. Ukraine, formerly dependent entirely on Russia for oil, this year signed a deal to buy oil from Iran. Ukraine was a major producer of weapons within the former Soviet Union, and rumours have been circulating in Kiev that the oil deal involved arms sales to Iran. Mr. Shamir also reassured members of Ukraine's Jewish community that Israel would continue to accept emigres. "Of course, we can't promise that people will immediately get work or a home of their own, but in time they will," Mr. Shamir said.

Court rules to free Iran-bound arms ship

ISTANBUL (R) — Istanbul's state security court Tuesday endorsed an appeals court order that the authorities release an Iran-bound ship seized last October while passing the Bosphorus with a cargo of arms. The ruling appeared to clear the last hurdle to free the Cyprus-registered Cape Malesa but it was not clear when its cargo of Bulgarian-made weapons would be released. Anatolia news agency said the court ordered that a team of experts count the cargo of the 2,700-tonne freighter which has been held at a Turkish naval base for 11 months.

Most of Iran's prisoners are on drugs charges

NICOSIA (AP) — The head of the Iranian judiciary said Tuesday that nearly two-thirds of the prisoners in Iran were behind bars on drug-related charges, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. The agency quoted Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi as saying that convicted drug traffickers and addicts constituted 65 per cent of the nation's inmates. Ayatollah Yazdi, who supervises Iran's legal system, including courts and prisons, made the remarks at a meeting of prison wardens, IRNA said. "The number of prisoners in Iran is unknown, but it is believed to be in the hundreds of thousands. The state-run media sometimes report nationwide crackdowns in which thousands of alleged drug addicts were rounded up in a single sweep," Iranian state groups have charged that political prisoners often are hanged on false drug charges to hide state persecution of government opponents.

Saddam sends Algeria greetings

ALGIERS (R) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has sent Algeria's head of state Ali Kafi "warm congratulations" on the occasion of the Prophet Mohammad's birthday, celebrated Wednesday. "May God, the all powerful, guide our steps to inspire us in the tradition of his messenger, for the realisation of the aims of our glorious Arab nation," said the message, carried on the official news agency APS.

Iran delays Turk's trip in row over Kurds

NICOSIA (R) — Iran has delayed by three days the visit of a Turkish minister who accused Tehran of aiding Kurdish rebels, an Iranian newspaper said Tuesday. Jomhuri Eslami newspaper said the delay in Interior Minister Ismet Sezgin's visit was a "warning against the hostile stance adopted by some segments of the Turkish media and officials, who deliberately attempt to mar Tehran-Ankara relations," Iran's news agency IRNA reported. Mr. Sezgin last month said Iran gave sanctuary and probably other help to Kurdish separatist guerrillas fighting Ankara. He will now arrive in Tehran on Sept. 11, three days after the previously scheduled date. IRNA said Iran has repeatedly denied charges that it shelters Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) rebels whose eight-year fight for an independent Kurdish state in southeast Turkey has claimed more than 4,500 lives. Tensions between the countries rose after Turkish officials said 500 PKK rebels crossed from Iran last month and killed 10 soldiers and wounded 12 before escaping back across the border.

Emir of Kuwait visits New Zealand

WELLINGTON (R) — The emir of Kuwait arrived in Wellington, Wednesday for a formal visit to thank New Zealand for its support during the Gulf war. After arriving in a specially chartered Kuwait Airways Boeing 767 bearing a "Do not forget our PoWs" slogan, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah was met by Governor-General Dame Catherine Tizard and Prime Minister Jim Bolger. The emir, one of the world's richest men, first arrived in Auckland after visiting Australia. He had to transfer from his larger Boeing 747 Jumbo as Wellington airport is considered unsuitable for such large aircraft. New Zealand contributed two transport aircraft, 75 associated personnel and two medical teams, to the military force which freed Kuwait from Iraqi occupation in 1991. The Kuwaiti entourage have booked six floors at two of Wellington's most expensive hotels.

Trek of the dead gets larger everyday in Somali camp

By Greg Myre

The Associated Press

BAIDOA, Somalia — Every day at dawn the death truck of Baidoa begins its grim rounds, belching diesel fumes as it collects the bodies of those who, died in the night in this starving desert town.

The red, rusting Fiat, its front windshield missing, stopped Monday morning at a white stucco house in a once handsome neighbourhood converted into a refugee camp.

Two workers, with scarves over their faces to block the sour smell of death, went into the house and loaded a shrouded corpse onto an olive green stretcher.

They put the body on the bed of the truck and went back into the house again, and again and again, emerging each time with another corpse.

The men made 49 trips before they were done with their gruesome task, a job that filled the back of their truck with a pile of bodies a metre high.

"I feel very sad to see this," said Helwile Aden Kasio, a sturdy ex-farmer who has been loading the corpses for weeks. "Many times I have put the bodies of my own relatives on this truck."

Somalia has been devastated by clan fighting and drought. Thousands of Somalis are said to be starving to death each day, and the United Nations estimates two million lives are

threatened. No place suffers more than Baidoa, where the death toll averages 200 a day and is rising despite increasing deliveries of food and medicine.

Almost all of the 60,000 people of Baidoa are recent arrivals, having straggled into town in search of food when their towns were destroyed. The town's permanent residents fled months ago as war swirled around them.

A U.S. military airlift based in the Kenyan port city of Mombasa sent three more C-130 cargo planes loaded with food to Baidoa Tuesday.

The Americans have delivered about 110 tonnes of food to the town, 250 kilometres west of the capital of Mogadishu, since they began flying there Saturday.

In Baidoa, the haunting reality of starvation is seen in the glazed eyes of the children, walking skeletons with the relentless ache of hunger in their bellies.

As the death truck went from camp to camp, the kids held their ragged shirts to their noses and watched in silence. They knew what was happening. Many of their friends and relatives have been taken away.

The mothers were more emotional. One wailed uncontrollably as her child was put on the truck.

In the Muslim tradition, the

bodies were washed in preparation for burial. In normal times, a corpse would be placed in fresh white cloth and a service would be held at home.

But in these dark days, the bodies are wrapped in whatever rags are available, and then set aside for the truck. One tiny body was covered with a burlap bag stamped, "USA."

Death has too much momentum to be stopped any time soon in Baidoa. Most people are dying of diarrhoea, pneumonia and measles, illnesses their weakened bodies cannot resist.

"For many of these people, you could give them all the food in the world. It wouldn't help. They're too far gone," said Raymond Pollack, a physician's assistant from the Los Angeles-based International Medical Corps team working at Baidoa's hospital.

In the offices of the Somali Red Crescent Society, assistant manager Aden Mohammad Isak pulled out a black notebook that kept the daily death toll.

In early August, the book recorded 20 to 50 a day, but the toll rose sharply as the month progressed. This month, the best day was 168 deaths, the worst 288.

"This problem is going to last a long, long time," Mr. Isak said. "I cannot say when it will get better."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Circus Partecaires
18:30 Magpy
19:00 News in French
19:15 Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Empty Nest
21:00 W.I.O.U.
22:00 News in English
22:30 Movie of the week: "Fire"

PRAYER TIMES

04:53 Fajr
06:11 (Sunrise) Doha
12:33 Dhur
16:06 'Asr
19:55 Maghrib
20:13 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swiffield Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 62725
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrentina Church Tel. 622666

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625363, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assiout International Church Tel. 827981, 828336
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 81295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623634 and 65932
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Raise in temperature will take place and winds will be northwesterly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 15 / 32
Aqaba 22 / 35
Dahra 13 / 33
Jordan Valley 19 / 35

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29, Aqaba 33. Humidity readings: Amman 38 per cent, Aqaba 38 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Jamel Marwan 776149
Dr. Ghaleb Zarwakh 736011
Dr. Salah Al-Ussoud 649028
Dr. Ghazi Abu Sheikh 732403
First pharmacy 651912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 657005
Nabrook pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
St. Michael pharmacy 657460

IRBQ:
Dr. Mohammad Sharra 773680
Al Shama pharmacy 983238
ZARQA:
Dr. Yabba Tarifi 981502
Dr. Khalid pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Department

Rescue 630541
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 81228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 843402
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 610230
Central Amman Telephone 610230
Regin 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 61101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
24 Right Information 653300
Queen Alia Int. Airport 06-33200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Haram Medical Centre 832813/32
Khayr Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Al-Khal Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malwa, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsi 664174
Shamsi Hospital 69131
University Hospital 643445
Al-Munir Hospital 667227
The Islamic, Abdali 665127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 644146
Italian, Al-Mudjara 771010
Al-Badr, J. Ashrafieh 771112/26
Army, Marja 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674125
ZARQA:
Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarga National Hospital (09)900560
Rn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al-Hana Modern Hospital (09)999090
BRQA:
Princess Banaa Hospital (02)755555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)772275
Rn Al Nafes Hospital (02)747100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)514111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)3320-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:00 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
06:15 Sana (RJ)
06:45 New Delhi (RJ)
12:00 Riyadh (RJ)
16:15 Dhahran (RJ)
16:15 Aqaba (RJ)
16:30 Doha (RJ)
11:00 Beirut (RJ)
17:45 Cairo (RJ)
17:55 Laraca (RJ)
18:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
19:15 Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

07:45 Damascus, Paris (AF)
09:15 Beirut (ME)
12:00 Doha, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
12:30 Riyadh (SU)
18:15 Istanbul (TK)
21:30 Cairo (MS)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:15 Beirut (RJ)
08:00 Aqaba (RJ)
12:00 Riyadh (RJ)
12:15 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
13:00 Paris (RJ)
13:10 Athens (RJ)
13:45 Laraca (RJ)
16:15 London (RJ)
16:30 Dhahran (RJ)
16:30 Aqaba (RJ)
21:30 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
21:30 Beirut (RJ)
21:45 Doha (RJ)
22:30 Bahrain (RJ)
22:45 Beirut (RJ)
23:00 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)
01:00 Muscat (RJ)

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King receives congratulations

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday received a number of cables from Arab and Muslim heads of state, congratulating him on the Prophet's birthday anniversary and wishing him continued good health and happiness and the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity. The cables were sent by King Hassan II of Morocco, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and President of the Maldives Maumoon Abdul Qayyum.

Princess Haya attends dentistry meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein, the honorary president of the National Society for Children's Dental Care, Tuesday attended a meeting held at the University of Jordan's Dentistry Faculty. The meeting, attended by a number of people concerned with dental care of children, aimed at exchanging ideas and proposals on best methods to help children care for their teeth.

Abul Ragheb to head delegation to energy conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will participate in the meetings of the 15th International Energy Conference to be held in Madrid Sept. 20-25. Jordan's delegation to the conference will be headed by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Ali Abul Ragheb and will include as members the director general of the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA), directors of the ministry's Planning and Projects Departments, and director of the JEA's Rationalising Department. The conference, which is organised by the International Council of Energy, is held once every three years and is attended by the council's committees and ministers of energy. Scientists and experts from international organisations such as the World Bank, the United Nations, the European Community and others also participate in the conference. Mr. Abul Ragheb told the Jordan Times the council was founded to encourage international cooperation, exchange ideas and conduct researches and studies on energy-related problems, energy resources, protecting the environment, preserving energy sources, maintaining energy prices and finding substitute energy sources. The International Energy Council includes 100 member states. Jordan joined it in 1979.

JEA to set new regulations

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA) is currently updating its rules and regulations to cope with latest developments and changes in the engineering field, according to JEA Vice-President Azzam Al Hunaidi. Mr. Hunaidi said the present JEA council is working out new regulations aimed at fixing the minimum and maximum fees and wages collected by engineering offices in a bid to defend the engineers' rights. Mr. Hunaidi was speaking at a ceremony during which 250 new engineers took the oath. He stressed the important role engineers play in the development of community and the nation as a whole, and called for forming an information committee at the JEA's Public Relations Department.

TCC urges subscribers to pay their bills

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) has warned telephone subscribers that it will suspend their telephone service on Sept. 19 if they do not pay their telephone bills. The corporation called on subscribers who have not received the bills of June and July to collect them from its offices.

Chile reiterates support for Palestinians

AMMAN (J.T.) — The embassy of Chile in Amman has reiterated the country's support to the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and an independent state. In a statement, Chilean ambassador to Jordan Nelson Haddad said that Chile respects the territorial integrity of all the states of the region, including Israel, and their right to have secure and internationally recognised borders. Chile rejects the acquisition of territories by force and supports the full implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242, 338, 445, which demand the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied Arab territories, said the statement. Referring to Chilean-Jordanian relations, the statement said they "are very old and excellent in all fields." New procedures to increase the levels of economic and commercial exchange between the two countries are being explored through the establishment of direct shipping lines between Chilean harbours and Aqaba, with a view to decreasing shipping costs. The statement said Jordanian-Chilean agreement on cooperation in scientific fields that provides for promoting exchanges and cooperation in educational, health, technological transfer, and tourism will be renewed.

Iraq denies American charges

(Continued from page 1)

raphical area in a training air space," he said. When asked whether he believed they were military planes, he replied: "I think that would be wise summation." The governor of a southern Iraq province has said that a U.S., British or French pilot entering the "no-fly" zone had nothing to fear if he were forced to bail out due to mechanical failure.

Basra Governor Latif Mahal Hmoud, said Iraq was not challenging the zone and did not want to see anyone hurt in its dispute with the West.

"We don't want any aggression and we don't want to resist the enemy with weapons. We hope to solve all problems through diplomacy," he told foreign journalists visiting Iraq's third largest city.

"From the imposition of the 'no-fly' zone until now we have not flown into the zone." Asked what Western pilots could expect if they were forced to bail out over Iraq, Mr. Hmoud, who served as a brigadier during the war over Kuwait, replied that U.S., British and other pilots captured then had not been harmed.

"How can you believe that we are going to deal with these pilots in a different way," he said.

"We do not want to harm anybody," he said, but added: "If they want to bomb us, that is different."

Iran's intelligence minister, Ali Fallahian, toured the western border with Iraq Tuesday and said several people had died in recent bomb explosions set off by "saboteurs" sent by Iraq, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Wednesday. The agency quoted Mr. Fallahian as saying that several espionage rings, mostly with links to Iraq, had been smashed in recent months.

He said 12 former members of the Majlis-e-Mushawir, a Baghdad-based Iranian opposition group, had recently surrendered to law-enforcement agents.

Also Wednesday, Iran said it had reported to the United Nations 37 cases in which it claims Iraq has violated their 1988 ceasefire agreement.

'Regency Council'

President Saddam has appointed a regency council to rule Iraq if he is killed and has named the big oilfields in southern Iraq in case his regime is forced to relinquish the region, Shiite Muslim rebels claimed Wednesday.

They said the council consists of President Saddam's youngest son Qusai, 27, who has taken an increasingly important role in the regime in recent months; President Saddam's son-in-law, Hussein Kamel Al Majid; and Izzat Ibrahim, a longtime Saddam lieutenant who is deputy chairman of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council.

The reports by the Tehran-based Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), citing unidentified informed sources in Baghdad, could not be independently confirmed.

There has been no mention of such moves in Baghdad's media. An official of the Al Dawa Islamic, a Shiite faction which is part of the alliance headed by the SCIRI, said Iraqi forces mined the oil installations around Basra and Al Amarah when the "no-fly" zone was imposed.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the AP in a telephone interview that the Iraqis planned to blow up the installations if the regime "was forced to leave the region."



Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan

FOR THE LOVE OF THE KING —

Across the capital, hundreds of banners and thousands of flags are flying in celebration of His Majesty King Hussein's recovery and in preparation for his return home. Downtown, above the roar and smog of buses and cars, six-metre banners flutter two metres apart; Jordanian flags hang across shops and flats. Around circles, down streets, and across company doors, businessmen to bus drivers to musicians are heaping praise. "The tears of happi-

ness fill our eyes seeing you back," flutters one banner across town from another. "We swear by the soul of Jordan that you will stay and we will sacrifice everything for you." There is also celebratory mood behind closed doors. Hunched over a creaky sewing machine, his glass slipped to the end of his nose, flagmaker Ahmad Fakhr says Jordanian flag production has doubled over the past two weeks. A few miles away, musician Adnan Assad has just finished recording a new tune to hit the airwaves when the King arrives.

Jordan to organise second cultural week at Seville Universal Expo

SEVILLE (J.T.) — A second week of Jordanian activities within the Seville Universal Expo: 1992 will be held between September 23 and 30.

The week's events will include lectures, seminars and other activities dealing with Arab-Arab relations, Spanish-Arab ties, the history of Andalusia and the Arabs' contributions to human civilisation.

The week will also include Jordanian folklore, events and music by the Amiri Forces Brass Band as well as bands from Radio Jordan. Jordanian pianist Rula Nabil will present classical music recitals and the Royal Jordanian (RJ) Folk Troupe will present a number of performances, officials have said.

The first Jordanian week was organised at Seville last May and was opened by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath.

Although Jordan's pavilion of 400 square metres is relatively small, activities and exhibits made up for the small space, according to the Jordan National Committee on the exposition.

The committee said that the Jordanian pavilion exhibited in the first week a collection of artefacts, pictures and archaeological pieces from most historical periods and civilisations that have left an imprint in Jordan.

The artefacts displayed were mostly dating back to the Umayyad period, during which the Islamic rule in Spain began.

Various aspects of the ancient Nabatean city of Petra, like the city and the treasury as well as the ancient desert castles and the Madaba mosaic map were also on display. The committee said that folk dances and other images of Jordanian cultural life will feature in the second week.

A total of 110 countries, some 50 multi-national companies and more than 20 international organisations are participating in the exposition with pavilions or exhibits under the overall logo of "The Age of Discovery."

Expo, 92, which opened on April 20 and ends by October 20, was the first great event of Spain's celebrations of the 500th anniversary of the discovery of the new world by Christopher Columbus.

Committee sources said last May that out of 250,000 visitors to the Seville Expo 1992, an estimated 30,000 persons visited the Jordanian pavilion.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that visitors still come to the pavilion. It estimated the total number of visitors so far at 1.5 million.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

Exhibitions

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artists Ghassan Ghar'eb and Walid Rashid, at Babelna Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by Rakana Dabboush at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "A Dialogue in Expression" — works on paper by Naz Ibrahim, Nabila Hitti and Dodi Taban at the National Gallery, Jabal Lawzeh Park.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Exploring Science" at Al Hussein Vocational School in Karak.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "The Horizon" by Artist Qasem Al Samir and Najaf Al Rabi' at the Housing Bank Gallery.

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Amman to host industrial symposium

AMMAN (Petra) — The United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and the Ministry of Industry and Trade are organising a three-day symposium on industrial partnership and contracts in the Arab World.

The symposium, to open on Sept. 19, aims at acquainting the participants with modern methods in industrial partnership and contracts, terms used in this field and other relevant topics. A total of 22 delegates from the Arab World and seven UNIDO experts will discuss computer programmes related to industrial partnership and contracts and their legal aspects.

The industrial partnership section at the Ministry of Industry and Trade, which was established in August of 1991 under the supervision of UNIDO with funds by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), will represent Jordan in the meetings.

This section maintains close contacts with similar units in Arab countries through a regional project. The Jordanian unit is expected to be linked to the European unit with the purpose of helping the Kingdom to promote the sales of its industrial products.

Following the meeting, directors of units in the Arab World will hold a three-day meeting with a UNIDO expert.

Arab countries to be represented at the two meetings are Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Egypt and Jordan.

Plans to reopen Jordanian banks in W. Bank frozen due to Israeli demands

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Plans to reopen some of the closed branches of Jordanian commercial banks in the Israeli-occupied West Bank have been frozen after the occupation authorities imposed certain pre-conditions, official sources said Wednesday.

"The Jordanian government turned down an Israeli demand that the central banks of the two countries hold a formal meeting to discuss the issue," said one of the sources. "Jordan does not believe that such a meeting is called for or acceptable prior to reaching a peace settlement."

"Any such meeting," said the source who preferred anonymity, "could come only after concrete progress has been made in the peace process and a settlement has been worked out."

According to the Israeli news agency, Itim, the Israeli government asked for a "face-to-face meeting" between the heads of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) and the Bank of Israel to negotiate an agreement for the reopening of Jordanian commercial bank branches in the occupied West Bank.

The Jordanian rejection of any official meetings with Israel outside the framework of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations launched in Madrid last year was the latest rebuff to the Jewish state's efforts to project an image of

normal relations with the Kingdom prior to reaching a peace settlement.

Analysts noted that Israel's unilateral move to restore telephone links with the Arab states, Jordan included, was part of its endeavours in this context.

Jordanian banks closed down their branches in the West Bank in 1967 when Israel occupied the territory in the 1967 war. Only one Jordanian bank has reopened branches there.

Reopening commercial bank branches in the occupied West Bank is seen as an essential element in efforts to streamline the Palestinian economy, which is intricately linked with that of Jordan despite the Israeli occupation of the territory.

"But it cannot come at the expense of any aspect of the peace process," said the source.

Apart from the political gains that Israel hopes to achieve from a meeting between the heads of the monetary authorities, the Jewish state could also be seeking to impose its own banking regulations on branches of Jordanian banks in the West Bank, banking experts said.

Under Jordanian law, all commercial banks of the Kingdom should operate within the rules and regulations laid down by the Jordanian government and these rules and regulations take precedence over all other laws.

Any imposition of Bank of

Israel on Jordanian banks, as and when reopened, will be detrimental to the political and economic interests of the Palestinians as well as the banks, experts said.

"Obviously, such considerations remain very much in the backdrop of the Israeli demand," said one banking official, who preferred anonymity. "If we are to meet the demand, then the entire purpose of reopening the branches will be defeated since the Israeli objective is to link the Palestinian economy with the Israeli economy..."

The Cairo-Amman Bank, which opened six of its closed branches in the West Bank in 1986, has been operating under the rules and regulations of the CBJ. Other banks interested in reopening their branches will also be governed by CBJ rules rather than those laid down by Bank of Israel.

CBJ Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi was quoted as saying earlier this week that Jordan "has no objection to the reopening of Jordanian banks on the West Bank as long as they operate within the rules set forth by the Economic Security Committee."

The committee regulations say that all Jordanian banks and their branches, whether in the West Bank or East Bank, should remain under the supervision of the CBJ.

534 students accepted at universities through special endowment

AMMAN (Petra) — Five-hundred and thirty-four students will benefit from a Royal Endowment reserving five per cent of seats available at Jordan's four state universities to sons and daughters of Ministry of Education teachers.

The endowment was created by a Royal Decree issued in 1984. Director of the Scholarships Department at the Ministry of Education Naim Khashrum said the University of Jordan granted scholarships to 208 students through the endowment. Yarmouk University admitted 182 students, the University of Sci-

ence and Technology (UST) 55, Mu'ta University 77 and the Amman College for Applied Engineering Sciences 12.

The total number of students who would be admitted to state universities this year is 1200.

A total of 1353 students from 24 districts throughout the country applied for seats through the endowment.

A committee coordinating students' admission to the universities last week announced the names of 9070 students who were already accepted. Chairman of the committee Mohammad Ma-

quosi said the students were chosen from 19845 applicants and a new list of admitted students will be announced later.

Ten per cent of the total number of seats at the state universities have been reserved for students from other Arab countries and the occupied West Bank, said Dr. Maquosi.

He said in a statement later that the criteria adopted for admitting students to the four state universities were the same as that of last year, and are approved by the Council of Higher Education.

PSD director emphasises importance of leadership training

AMMAN (Petra) — Public Security Department (PSD) Director Fadel Ali Fuhaid Tuesday said the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein represents a unique scientific methodology and an ever-flowing source of experiences.

Major General Fuhaid said King Hussein's "leadership has always proved capable of countering challenges and difficulties."

Addressing public security officers, taking part in the middle and advanced leadership courses, he said that the PSD carries out enormous tasks, saying that these tasks are on the increase because of internal and external changes and developments which warrant the preparation of efficient lead-

ers, capable of dealing with modern security theories.

He pointed out that efficient leadership is a basic element in maintaining law and order and achieving PSD objectives. Training is an essential element in the development of leadership skills, he said.

Referring to the acquisition by citizens of unlicensed guns and using fire arms in events, Maj. Gen. Fuhaid said this practice is a clear violation of the law. He pointed out that the Public Security Department has issued instructions to public security centres and departments throughout the country to facilitate the licensing of guns, thus making it easy for citizens to legally possess arms.

Amman, Ankara sign protocol

AMMAN (J.T.) — Greater Amman Mayor Mohammad Bashir has returned home from Ankara, where he signed a protocol of cooperation and friendship with Ankara Municipality. The protocol aims at bolstering ties of cooperation and friendship through the exchange of expertise and ideas about development plans, and holding joint activities in both Amman and Ankara.

In an arrival statement, Mr. Bashir said his visit provided him with an opportunity to look at the activities being carried out in the Turkish capital.

The Greater Amman Council has endorsed the protocol.

In another development, the council agreed to donate JD 6000 to the Friends of the Children Club, and to donate JD 400,000 to the Amal Centre for the treatment of cancer. The amount will be used to finance the construction of the 4th floor of the centre.

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Jordan Times advertising department.

The cleaning act

THE AMMAN Municipality has said it is doing its homework properly and efficiently by periodically testing water and foodstuff within its jurisdiction to see if they are safe for human consumption and use. The director of the municipality's Food and Environmental Control Department stated Tuesday that inspectors have been conducting tests on a regular basis on water wells, water tanks, swimming pools as well as on food samples ranging from milk products to bread. In the process, some swimming pools were ordered closed down and no less than 60 tonnes of foodstuff were condemned and destroyed for violating the minimum standards prescribed by the government. But as commendable as these measures are, they simply do not go far enough.

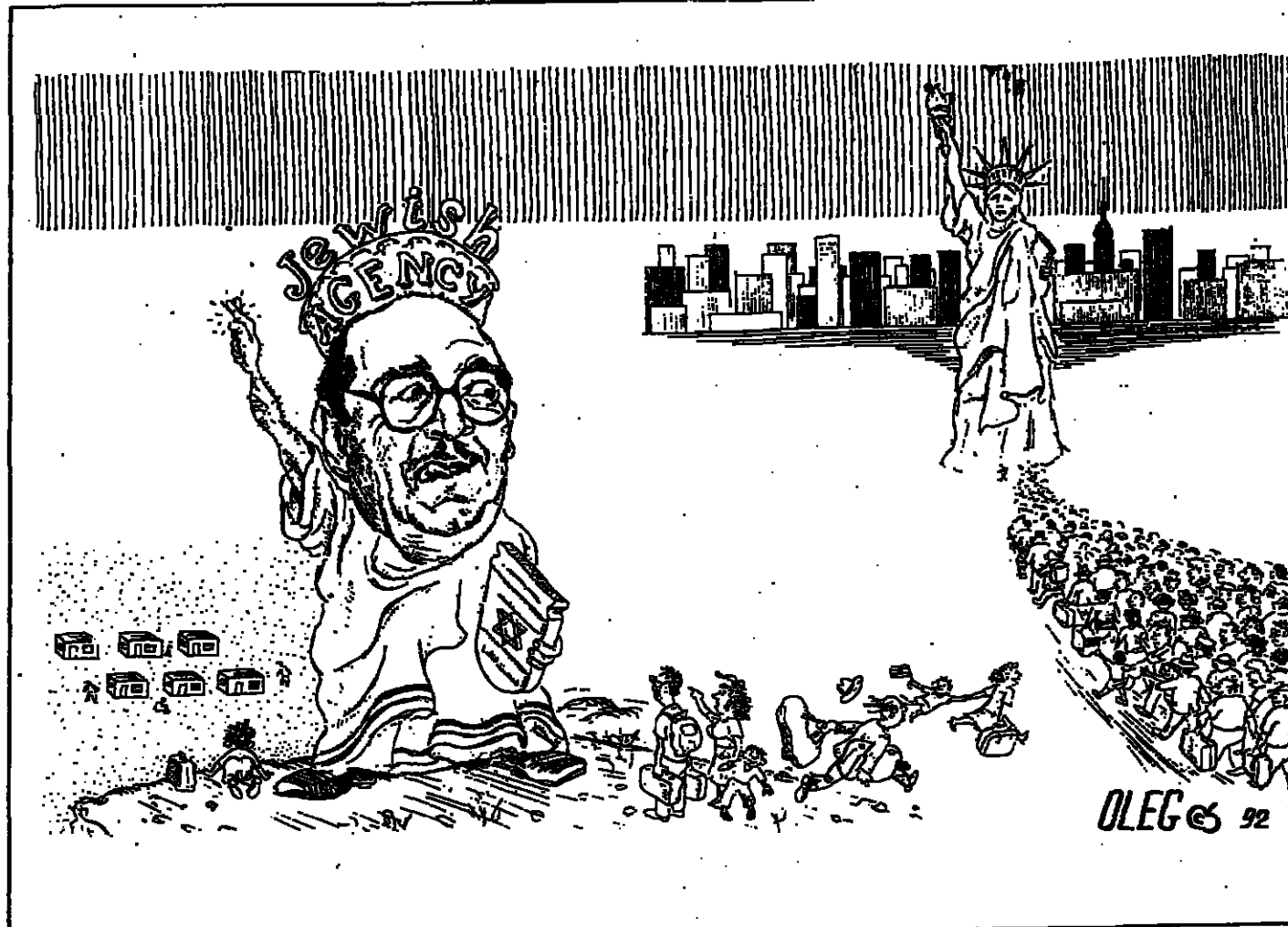
For a start, restaurants have yet to be targeted by the Amman Municipality's inspectors as the hygienic conditions in some of these establishments, serving thousands of people, are below acceptable standards and need to be improved or otherwise have their doors closed to public access. Periodic inspection of restaurants of all grades would surely put an end to any possible abuse of public trust and confidence. Likewise, street vendors have to be controlled. They still roam the streets selling food without the minimum protection against flies, diseases and plain dirt and dust. Does it require much ingenuity or great initiative to put an immediate end to this patent violation of health standards? Surely the authorities must have noticed this daily sight of health hazards but refuse to act for reasons best known to themselves. In this context, we wonder if there is any coordination and pooling of resources between the capital's municipal authorities and the Ministry of Health on joint concerns. And if there is, other major cities and towns in the Kingdom must be asked to follow in the footsteps of Amman and also start conducting periodic testing of their sources of water and food. The people of Amman would not be immune if an epidemic in another Jordanian city or town breaks out. What minimum precautionary measures are being taken by the capital need to be emulated by other cities, towns and villages as a matter of highest priority.

The job of all health inspectors in the Kingdom would be better performed if fruit and vegetables are added to the list of food items that are being checked on. Given the near panic caused by the recent revelation that Jordanian fruit and vegetables are heavily contaminated with pesticides and insecticides, not to mention, polluted water or hormones, it would be more than appropriate to ask our health officials to test all such products. Otherwise, the overall objectives of all our health campaigns could end up being frustrated.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Wednesday warned the Arab nation in general and the Gulf states in particular against remaining passive with regard to the Western attempts to create a Shiite enclave in southern Iraq. The move is not only aimed at partitioning Iraq and weakening its leadership, it also aims at creating a springboard for Iran to impose its domination on the Arab Gulf region, said the daily. Iran tries to deceive the Arabs with its false attacks on the United States for its support of the "fundamentalist" and "Islamic" sanctions on the Muslim people of Iran, in reality, Tehran is awaiting the creation of the Shiite enclave in southern Iraq in order to start implementing its schemes in the Arab World, warned the daily. The paper said that the Gulf Cooperation Council, grouping six Gulf states, has now placed this question on the top of their agenda, and it is hoped that these Arab states will embark on practical steps to prevent Iran from achieving its purpose and the Western allies from partitioning Iraq. There is indeed a big difference between the Kurdish question in the north and the Western-imposed sanctions in the south, it said. The Kurds have their own autonomy and are continuously attacked by Turkey and not by Baghdad whereas in the south the Iranians are trying to win over the Shiites and annex their territory, the paper pointed out. The paper called on the Arab nation to foil the U.S.-led conspiracy directed against all the Arabs and said the time has come for the Arab states to transcend their differences and open a new chapter in their relations that would save them from conspiracies.

BY SPREADING about rumours concerning its intention of withdrawing from the Syrian Golan Heights, Israel is trying to brighten its image before the world which has witnessed its intransigence at the latest round of talks with the Arabs in Washington, noted Sawt Al Shaab daily. The paper said it was noticed that Israeli leaders started talking about the possibility of such a withdrawal from the Golan Heights in exchange for security arrangements, shortly after they aborted first part of the Washington parity. But, the paper pointed out, Israeli leaders have not for once announced their readiness to abandon the occupied Arab lands, in compliance with U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, nor did the Israelis declare their intentions of establishing peace with the Arabs based on justice that would grant the Palestinians their rights. The paper said the coming days, when the talks resume in the United States capital, will expose the realities about the Israeli government position and whether the Israeli leaders are just wasting more of Arab time in Washington. The Israelis, continued the paper, resorted to talking about the Golan Heights when they noticed the Arab parties' determination to remain united.



Immigrants who come, see — and leave

By Anatole Mostoslavsky

Now that the loan guarantees are in the pipeline, we can start to dream a bit about how the \$10 billion should be spent.

I'm a journalist, not an economist. But I'm familiar with economic terms from my childhood. My father was the accountant-general of a Ukrainian bank and my mother was head of the financial department of a big enterprise.

Two billion dollars a year is an impressive sum. If nothing else, it's enough to improve the morale of immigrants, which today is very low. There is no work and no housing. Most importantly, the feeling among us is that there is no way out.

We had everything there, and nothing here. There isn't even hope that someday we'll have it again. We feel we are not wanted.

Headlines in some of the Russian-language press reflect the despair: "Zigzag of failure," (7 Dney, August 21) and "It is dangerous to make fun of the unfortunates." (Obozrenie, August 22). In the latter article, L. Menshikov, takes issue with those who speak of a million new immigrants arriving in the coming years.

"A new wave of immigration, if it takes place... will sweep away not only the contractors, but the Housing Ministry, and

maybe even the Israeli government. Such 'jokes' with the unfortunates are very dangerous."

There is much talk among the immigrants about leaving because they feel there is nothing to do here. The talk is of going to either the U.S. or South Africa; maybe even back to our native lands. It is said that the planes at Ben-Gurion airport are filled with immigrants who will not return to Israel.

I don't know how true these statements are, but I do know that two men very close to me have already left. One is my cousin, a specialist in citrus fruits. He's a very practical and prudent man and, after living here for two years, he moved back to his native Dnepropetrovsk.

The other, an old friend, has two graduate degrees (law and economics). After being here for a year and a half and not finding work, he returned to Kiev.

Both left without saying goodbye. At 60, they couldn't overcome the language barrier.

What can be done to prevent others from joining these two? How should the money be spent?

One possibility is the development of a health-resort industry on a world-class scale. Eilat and the Dead Sea are a potential gold mine. The waters of the Dead Sea, very rich in minerals, offer a unique setting. There are many

illnesses that can only be treated here.

A network of health resorts that combine tourist facilities and medical clinics in Eilat and the Dead Sea would attract visitors and foreign investors. It would also give employment to doctors and other health-care professionals who feel squeezed out of the local market.

In addition, the loan guarantees money should be invested in scientific industries that create jobs for highly educated Russian professionals. Prof. Herman Branover, head of Shamir, the association of religious professionals from the CIS, submitted a comprehensive plan along these lines to the Shamir government last February, and it is vitally important that Prime Minister Rabin implement it now.

Some immigrants are cynical about the prospect that the money will be used to create jobs.

A friend of mine, a once-prominent economist who now works as a guard, scoffs at my proposals. The money won't go to resorts or new industries, he says. It will go to new roads, ports and power stations. It will be used to build a highway to the Negev and move industry there. It will be used to build thousands of new housing units that will employ blue-collar workers,

not academicians.

It's all been decided. It's rigged, he says.

I understand his anger. My response is that no plan will satisfy everyone and we must place our trust in the government.

Investment in infrastructure is good for our children, and we came for their sakes, didn't we? But there is a problem with spending money designed for long-term job creation on infrastructure. It reminds me of the Soviet myth we were fed for 70 years: To develop agriculture, we need more steel and cast iron.

And we shall live better and more happily. My friend the guard has a solution for how to maintain a balance between competing needs: The government should create a commission to control distribution of the \$10 billion. To prevent a situation such as Ariel Sharon squandering billions on housing, the commission must be made up of competent scientists, public officials and Russian immigrants (who should be widely represented).

I think there is merit to his plan. If it is implemented, the flow of emigration will be stopped and he may be able to quit his job as a security guard and go back to his old profession — The Jerusalem Post.

Mother nature vs. father George

Is Bush losing stamina at home and abroad?

By Muhammad I. Ayish

IT HAS become rather obvious that the closer the 3rd of November gets, the higher tensions grow at the White House. It has also been clear that the closer that date is, the more the presidential agenda is prone to be overwhelmed with Mr. Bush's obsession with another four-year term.

Because the president seems to be utterly convinced he could do a better job in foreign affairs to improve his reelection chances, the U.S. Air Force, in concert with those of the British and the French, have been mobilised in full gear to keep post-Desert Storm gusts blowing in the Gulf.

The jointly enforced no-fly zone in southern Iraq seems to amount to no more than a last-ditch effort by a beleaguered president to improve his deteriorating standing at home ahead of November 3. Yet, for a highly disgruntled American electorate, the president's quest to bring home glories from southern Iraq appears to be too little, too late.

The fury of hurricane Andrew, leaving behind a trail of havoc and death in southern Florida, appears to have knocked Mr. Bush's glory-hunting in foreign lands out of balance. It took him four days to send federal troops to help out hurricane-stricken victims in southern Florida. That runs in stark contrast with the lightning speed with which he dispatched U.S. forces for another, albeit uninvited, "help out" in southern Iraq.

It is clear here that the untimely strike of hurricane Andrew did indeed spoil the president's search for big votes. However, and unfortunately, he seems to be oblivious to the fact that it is Americans in south Florida, not Shiites in southern Iraq, who hold the key to the White House.

The growing surge of tension within the Bush camp seems to be an accumulative outcome of the myopic handling of international affairs by successive U.S. administrations. The break up of the Soviet Union and the demise of communism as an ideological force seem to have taken American policy-makers by surprise. U.S. responses to these major international metamorphoses have been framed in what has been billed as "the new world order," a phrase that has been empirically used to refer to a Pax-Americana vision of the international system.

Recent developments in Afghanistan, the Gulf, the former Soviet Union and Yugoslavia seem to contravene the basic tenets of that order. They foreshadow an anarchistic view of a world living an ordeal of ethnic

disintegration, economic depression, starvation and moral "double standards."

The remaining sole superpower has proven to be too worn out to provide the moral, economic and even political umbrella necessary for bringing durability, legitimacy and equity to the emerging world order, at least in the long run.

American short-sightedness in handling international affairs seems to be moving in concert with a deepening internal crisis that threatens to rupture the already delicate social fabric of U.S. society.

With the spiralling rates of unemployment, crime, industrial inefficiency (compared to Germany and Japan), America has proven more than ever before that before it could discipline "bears and wolves" out there, it should first keep its own house in order.

The shocking television pictures of the late Los Angeles riots, and most recently of hapless conditions of hurricane Andrew-stricken victims scurrying for a cover to spend the night under, have been grim reminders of the dilemma facing U.S. policy-makers in the next decade.

The manner in which the Bush administration tinkers with its domestic and foreign affairs seems to reflect a great deal of confusion between two totally different sets of problems.

What strikes me here is the style used by President Bush to perpetuate such confusion in order to have a free hand in one area without eliciting criticism from the other. In this respect, Mr. Bush seems to be master of the art of... association, that is of linking two unrelated developments to justify existing policies.

Two years ago, American forces were amassed in the Gulf to liberate Kuwait and thus help the sluggish American economy; last spring Mr. Bush made a historic visit to Japan to help create more jobs at home; and at this moment, he would probably argue that he is policing an air exclusion zone in southern Iraq to protect Americans from future hurricanes. And why not argue like this when "scientific" data shows that the unusual intensity of hurricane Andrew was caused by the current warming trend engulfing the planet? And was it not Saddam Hussein who unleashed such a trend when he set some six hundred Kuwaiti oil wells ablaze?

Let's wait and see if a red-herring-dominated rhetoric would ever make a president.

Cautious olive branch seen for Algerian Islamists

By John Baggaley
Reuters

ALGIERS — After months of bitter conflict, Algeria's new leaders appear to be taking tentative steps towards Muslim fundamentalists with whom former leaders swore not to deal, diplomats say.

There is no sign of any let-up in the killings — 11 gunmen or security force men have already died this month. Last month a bomb at Algiers airport killed nine people and wounded 124.

The diplomats say any olive branch to the fundamentalists excludes extremists using violence to achieve an Islamic state.

But some suggest the government might be preparing to deal with moderates linked to the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), split between "Djazzarist" legalists and the hardline "Salafist" wing.

One diplomat detected signs of change after the June killing of head of state Mohammed Boudiaf. His alleged killer gave his motive as religious but the banned FIS was not directly blamed.

"It was a perfect opportunity to hit the FIS," said one diplomat. "Why did the authorities not directly blame FIS fundamentalists for Boudiaf's death — or later for the bomb? The only possible scenario is that the authorities were having, or planned, secret talks with the moderates, and the extremists are trying to sabotage them."

Just two weeks after Boudiaf's death, two FIS leaders facing death penalty charges received 12-year jail terms in a military court, sentences seen as light and a gesture of reconciliation.

The diplomat added: "There is the realisation they will have to talk to moderates sooner or later."

This would be impossible if they blamed them for crimes like killing a head of state or innocent people at the airport."

The outlawed FIS, banned last March, emerged as the biggest party in the only multi-party polls since independence. Last January it needed only a few seats for a majority in parliament.

The authorities cancelled a second-round vote.

Hardliners believe only violence will achieve an Islamic state. They opposed taking part in the ballot and said its cancellation confirmed their stand.

They have since been blamed

for most of the deaths of more than 110 members of the security forces slain since last February.

Publicly at least, the FIS leadership urged continued calm, confident the "people's choice" could not be forever thwarted. Most leaders are detained or jailed and radicals hold sway.

Any reconciliation would have to mean some agreement over future elections, said one diplomat. He suggested it could aim for a compromise candidate for presidential elections, avoiding any "victor or vanquished".

The five members of Algeria's collective presidency have said they will

not seek election.

One path to the fundamentalists could be through the more moderate Islamic party Hamas, the fourth biggest party. Its leader Mahfoud Nahhal has said the presidency's decision to start talks this month with the parties was "positive".

He added: "The chances of reestablishing order are minimal, for the authorities are trying to attack the violence instead of battle its causes."

In contrast to former Interior Minister Larbi Belkheir, his successor Mohammed Hardi, without mentioning the FIS, recently

clearly differentiated between its radicals and others.

Those who have recourse to violence and terrorism and who claim for themselves the Islamic domain are a minority," he said.

"In contrast, those whom one calls fundamentalists... are an important part of our society. They are our brothers. I tell them simply: 'If you are Muslims of good faith and want to cleanse your society from the cancers which rotted the country in the 1980s, do it with us'."

Mr. Hardi told El Watan newspaper. One Arab diplomat said the appeal seemed aimed at splitting the fundamentalists rather than a signal of dialogue. But another diplomat termed it "an encouraging sign for dialogue."

Diplomats say Algeria's problems — debt-ridden economy, collapsing industry, high birth rate, chronic shortages — need urgent reconciliation for stability and investor confidence.

Any peace approach will, however, be extremely delicate. Too many members of the security forces have died — sometimes shot down in front of their children — for any sudden about-turn.



LETTERS

Untimely opportunity

To the Editor:

Mr. Rami Khouri's article "Jordan's opportunity: Where history and elegance coincide" (Jordan Times, Sept. 8) is politically gratuitous, intellectually insensitive and rudely alien to Jordanian, Arab, and Muslim customs and traditions. It is discourteous, prescriptive, sensational, irrelevant and untimely.

Mr. Khouri's attitude seems like that of a young bull who saw red lights in a China shop.

Dr. Maan Abu Nawar,
P.O. Box 35612,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Israeli director shows other face of Palestinians

By Robert Mahoney
Reuter

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — The camera moves from the face only to show the surroundings, the parched Jordan River Valley, a refugee camp in Gaza, then quickly back to the face. These are strong features, intelligent eyes. The faces of three Palestinian women, each telling her own story and through that the painful history of a whole people exiled from its land. Through the Veil of Exile, documentary by Israeli director David Ben-Zur, cuts through slogans to the painfully human. Ben-Zur, a Jew who

grew up among Arabs in Morocco, brings the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to life without the clichéd intifada image of soldiers battling child stone-throwers.

His focus on ordinary women instead of the usual male leaders and fighters results in a refreshing but searing gaze not only at the repression by Israel of a whole people but also the repression of women within that society.

The faces tell all. But those faces, as the title shows, see and are seen through a veil. "I chose these women because of the simple humanity," said the 38-year-old director who pays for his

film-making by working for Western television companies covering the intifada. "They are in a double exile. They are rebelling against the Israeli occupation and against their own society," he said in an interview.

To a soundtrack of original music and Palestinian poetry, the women recount their lives in their own words, two in Arabic, one in English, in the 86-minute film shown at this summer's Jerusalem Film Festival.

Ben-Zur spent four years and most of his earnings to make Through the Veil of Exile, his third film, which cost \$140,000. Dalal Abu-Kamar, 33,

spent 12 years in an Israeli jail for the Palestinian revolution. But when she came back to her family home in Gaza's miserable Shati Refugee Camp, she did not find a land fit for heroines.

Having sacrificed her youth for a Marxist wing of the Palestine Liberation Organisation she thought she would be respected. Instead, her traditionalist Muslim community treated her as an oddity. Too old to marry, too poor to break out.

Dalal, her head covered by a scarf, passes by the young stone-throwers of the intifada with complete detachment. Her struggle is now internalised.

She criticises the political organisations which have fed Palestinians little but words, and excoriates the Palestinian bourgeoisie and landowners who have done nothing but use refugees like her as cheap labour.

Meanwhile her aged mother pesters her daily to find a rich Saudi husband and be gone. The former teenage freedom fighter now spends her days working at a U.N. clinic and her nights alone in a cinder-block shack, watching Dynasty.

"I want Israelis to see the human face of their 'enemy,'" Ben-Zur said. "I want them to see a Palestinian not as victim, as terror-

ist, as Tel Aviv street-sweeper, but as a human being who has problems like them."

"I made this film for unconvinced Israelis, not the left-wingers," says Ben-Zur who is now fighting television producers' pro- or anti-Israeli biases to get the film aired on Western networks.

"For them it's not black and white enough. For the French it is not anti-Israeli enough. For others it's not balanced because there are no Jewish women in it," Ben-Zur said.

Unlike Dalal the other women in the film are mothers, one Christian and urban, the other a Muslim farm labourer.

Mary Khass, 60, moves from her native Haifa, part of Israel since 1948, to her husband's home in Gaza after the 1967 war. An Israeli Arab, she wants to rediscover her Palestinian identity. It takes 20 years for Gaza's closed Muslim World to accept her. Meanwhile, she "lost" her children. Her daughter wants to go back to the relative freedom of Israel, her son went to fight with the PLO and cannot return.

Mary wipes tears from her eyes as she shouts to her son, now in Egypt, across the barbed wire of the border fence.

The widow Um-Muham-mad, 53, has never been to

Israel. She scratches a living from the dusty earth of the abandoned Ein Sultan Refugee Camp near Jericho. Politics passes her by. She understands only one thing, land is everything. She dreams of saving enough money to buy a small plot like the one her family once owned in Jericho. She criticises Palestinians for leaving their land in 1948 and 1967.

The honour of the land is more important than the honour of women, she says, referring to the Palestinians who fled fearing Jewish attacks on their women.

Three women. Three lives blighted by a battle over ownership of the scuffed hills of the Holy Land.

To each, her veil

By Katia Sabet

CAIRO — For non-Muslims, it has sinister connotations that range from religious fundamentalism to the suppression of women's rights. Yet the so-called Islamic veil is only a much maligned item of clothing, according to the women who wear it. The donning of a head covering is not always a religious or a political statement, they say. There are as many different types of veil as there are reasons for wearing them. Some women choose to wear the veil to protect themselves from the unwanted attentions of men on the streets. Some wear it because of tradition and some for far more frivolous reasons, like comfort and fashion.

"For a start, people who talk of the Islamic veil often ignore or forget the fact that down the centuries, in Egypt and throughout the Orient, Muslim and Christian women dressed in exactly the same manner," said Dr. Anaiyat Farag, a psychologist in Cairo. To illustrate her point, Dr. Farag recalls how Edward Lane, the famous English traveller who lived in Cairo from 1825 to 1849, noted in his book, The Manners and Customs of Modern Egyptians, that the Coptic women — Egyptian Christians — "veil their face, not only in public, but also in the house, when any men, except their near relations, are present." Said Dr. Farag: "This practice also applied to Jewish women, who dressed identically to their Muslim and Christian counterparts."

In modern-day Cairo, the veil has its practical uses, it seems. "Why do I wear the veil?" says Araf, 19. "To be

respected by my male peers and so as not to be accosted in the streets." For any young woman, walking through the crowded streets of Cairo in a headscarf is a daily battle. As men look them up and down and practice their chat-up techniques. Said one mother of two, who preferred not to be identified: "When I walked through Cairo the first time with my daughter-in-law I was struck by how much more of this sort of thing goes on than when I was a young woman. These days, the men are much more explicit and aggressive. It's a constant barrage against which any serious-minded girl has a right to protect herself."

Maisa, a 45-year-old civil servant, also covers her head for pragmatic motives, but of a different kind. "What I wear isn't exactly a veil. It's more of a turban," she says. "I buy them from a boutique, where they're made up in pleated silk jersey. It covers my hair perfectly and enables me to look impeccable without having to go to the hairdresser twice a week." Maisa's wardrobe contains a dozen different turbans. "Without one, I feel undressed, incomplete," she says. "As far as I'm concerned, the religious factor isn't an important one. When I was a young girl, I covered my head only when I was praying. But times have changed and it's certainly true that the veil today — or the turban or headscarf — gives a degree of protection from the crowd."

Fatma, who sells sweetcorn on a street corner, has worn the veil for as long as she can remember. But she is vehement in her assertion that hers is a choice dictated by

tradition, not by religion or politics. "I wear a 'tarha'. I'm no 'mohagheba'," she says defiantly. "I dress as I've always dressed, as my mother and my grandmother did before me." The "mohagheba" from whom Fatma is so keen to distance herself is the name given to women whose veils cover their entire bodies, from head to toe. The veil itself, usually of a brown-coloured material and, more rarely, gray or black, is known as the "negab".

From the turban worn by Maisa to the full-length "negab" worn by the "mohaghebas" there is a huge range of other veils, in a wide assortment of colours and fabrics. Like many women of her background, Fatma the street-seller wears a triangle of black material edged with small glass beads that is worn tightly knotted over the hair. Another longer piece of black-coloured crepe de chine is draped around the neck and over the shoulders, hanging down the back. Fatma's "tarha" leaves the ears and neck visible, and sometimes part of the hair, if the woman wears it long.

Other veils come in all shapes and sizes, some made of fine fabrics, often in bright colours or worked with threads of gold and silver. By contrast, the "negab", the classic Islamic veil, is almost always white, a symbol of purity in Islam as in other religions. It is worn tucked around the face and falls softly on the shoulders and the chest, not unlike the head-dress worn by nuns in the Roman Catholic Church.

Unlike its more colourful counterparts, the "negab" is, to all intents and purposes, a profession of faith. The woman who wears it will normally also dress in garments that reach the floor, with long sleeves which cover her hands as far as her fingertips. This is the style of dress indicated by the Koran as proper attire for women. "I dress this way because that's what God wants of me," says Ola, a university student. "I love God, so it costs very little to obey his commandments."

"I began wearing the veil two years ago, when I got back from my pilgrimage (to Mecca, the most sacred Islamic holy shrine)," said Fatma, 30, who works at the Ministry of Information. "It was at Mecca that I really understood the beauty and the importance of religion." For Fatma, Ola and thousands of other like them, wearing the veil is a gesture of devotion and religious obedience.

For others, wearing the "negab" is like wearing a badge to proclaim their pride in being Islamic, and their rejection of the Western culture which a growing number of women see as arid and self-serving. When wearing the veil takes on a political significance, it is most often among the young. Veils are increasingly seen on university campuses, their wearers

proud to assert the fact that they are Arab women. "I wear the veil because I am an Eastern woman and because I reject what is imposed on me by the West," says Karima, an 18-year-old law student at the University of Cairo. "We have been so anxious to imitate foreigners that we have ended up losing our own personality. It is time we started rediscovering our roots."

"I do not reject Western society wholesale," says a fellow student, Khadiga. "On the contrary. We have a great deal to learn from the West in terms of science, technology and sports. But as far as human and social issues are concerned, nothing that has come from the West has ever really proved to be of benefit to us."

The completely veiled "mohaghebas" are a rare sight in Cairo, but a striking one. Not a square inch of skin is left exposed. Even the hands are covered with gloves and the eyes shaded with large dark glasses, worn over the face-covering which has a small slit to allow the women to see. They are rarely to be seen alone. Usually, they go out in pairs or accompanied by a man, who is generally dressed in white and wears a beard. At 32, Mrs. F.B.M. explains that she took to wearing the full-length veil when she married. As a girl and as a young woman she had never worn more than a scarf over her hair, but her husband insisted she cover herself from the gazes of other men. He also made her give up her job with an import-export company.

Mrs. F.B.M. is philosophical about the restrictions on her freedom. "Wearing the 'negab' poses no real problem for me," she says. "On the contrary, I'm happy to obey my husband who is a very kind man and worthy of all my affection and respect. I've become used to going out covered up. I feel protected this way, free and sure of myself."

Other Egyptian women are less convinced of the wisdom of those, like Mrs. F.B.M., who become "mohaghebas." Psychologist Dr. Farag sees it as a sign of weakness on the part of the woman's husband, rather than the expression of any religious devotion. "This man is probably the victim of some psychic trauma and his religious fundamentalism, if it exists, acts as a prop to help him define his sense of identity," she says. "There is nothing in the Muslim religion as practiced by the Sunnis that justifies forcing women to dress in such a way and be so strictly supervised by their husbands. This is a special case, which has nothing to do with Islam."

In fact, the Koran prescribes the full "negab" veil only for the wives of the Prophet Mohammad. The Islamic Holy Book also advises the full veil in the case of women whose beauty is so devastating that it could



There are as many different veils as there are reasons for wearing them. Some are worn for protection from unwanted attention, some for religious and traditional reasons and some for comfort and fashion.

be the cause of sin and disorder. "That's not the case with me," says Mrs. F.B.M., laughing. "My face has never posed a danger for the health or sanity of men."

The sight of "mohaghebas" provokes disgust and scorn in some Egyptian women, who see it as a betrayal of the struggles in the 1920s, led by the legendary feminist Hoda Chaaroui, which resulted in a fair degree of emancipation for women in Egypt. "Who knows what they're hiding under all that material," says Fardous, a 40-year-old Cairo journalist. "This custom provides the perfect cover for all sorts of people — men, women, criminals, pervers, sexual maniacs — and means they can operate quite happily, safe in the knowledge that no-one will detect them or recognise them." In fact, stories abound about so-called "mohaghebas" who turned out to be anything but what they seemed. One such tale recounts the case of a sneak thief who worked all the Cairo bus routes for years until he was unmasked by a woman, who was suspicious about the way he walked. According to Dr. Farag,

women who wear the "negab" veil will never become integrated members of society. "The fact that they are trying to make themselves invisible means these women no longer have the essential markers that enable other sectors of society to recognise them," she says. "For this reason, they become outsiders, a minority of outsiders, with everything that implies in the way of ostracism and hostility on the part of other people."

But women who wear the veil — the "negab" and its other less restrictive versions — claim an item of clothing does little to change the person within. Notes Ferial, an Egyptian housewife who is married with no children, "Women have been liberated and they remain free. The difference between ourselves and our grandmothers lies in the very fact that in 1912 they were obliged to wear the veil if they stepped outside the house. We, in 1992, have a free choice. We are free to dress and to live according to our wishes, to our culture, our preferences, our tastes and our beliefs" — World News Link.

THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK

- Advice is like snow. The softer it falls, the deeper it sinks into the mind.
- Samuel Coleridge, English writer (1772-1834).
- Facts do not cease to exist just because they are ignored.
- Aldous Huxley, English writer (1894-1963).
- Blessed is the man who, having nothing to say, abstains from giving us wordy evidence of the fact.
- George Eliot, English novelist (1819-1880).
- It is no use to blame the looking-glass if your face is awry.
- Nikolai Gogol, Russian author (1809-1852).
- An idea that is not dangerous is unworthy of being called an idea at all.
- Oscar Wilde, Irish-born writer (1854-1900).
- When prosperity comes, do not use all of it.
- Confucius, Chinese philosopher (551 B.C.-479 B.C.).



Prince Charles with Princess Diana

Next chapter of royal saga: Is Charles getting his own back?

By Maureen Johnson
The Associated Press

LONDON — Buckingham Palace says a letter on palace notepaper denigrating Princess Diana is a fake. But as the saga of Britain's royal woes rolls on, others wonder: Is Prince Charles getting back at his wife?

A tape of an intimate telephone conversation allegedly between Princess Diana and a male friend, James Gilbey, 34, has cast a cloud over her current starring role as the beautiful princess trapped in a loveless marriage to a cold man.

The timing of the release of the 2½-year-old tape has fuelled speculation that Prince Charles' courtiers in the royal household have launched a smear-Diana campaign prior to Britain's separation, or even divorce, of the century.

Unidentified friends of Prince Charles are quoted in newspapers as saying the 43-year-old heir to the British throne would never sanction anything like that.

But some tabloids, and others, see official gossip trained on Princess Diana. "The plot — Princess Diana and the bitter palace campaign to discredit her," declared Britain's Mail On Sunday.

"Now it is Charles' turn," said Lynn Barber, commentator in the serious Independent On Sunday. "I predict an absolute avalanche of damaging material over the next few weeks, followed by an announcement of divorce."

In the 10 days since news of the tape broke in Britain, more than 90,000 people have telephoned a hotline set up by the Sun newspaper to hear for themselves a woman who sounds like Diana describing her marriage as torture. The man tells her, "I love you, I love you."

In addition, a spate of reports since the tape have hinted at a romantic link between Diana, 31, and another dashing bachelor, guards officer Maj. James Hewitt,

35. Maj. Hewitt, who in 1989 taught horse riding to Diana and her sons, Prince William and Prince Harry, has gone into hiding.

Amid all this, newspapers published a letter on what appeared to be Buckingham Palace notepaper in which an official is alleged to have described Princess Diana as "relishing the martyr role."

"It is a fake," said a Buckingham Palace spokesman, requesting the customary anonymity. "Anybody can get hold of a Buckingham Palace letterhead."

Last Monday, Princess Diana left Balmoral Castle, where Queen Elizabeth II and her family traditionally gather in August and September for a six-week Scottish holiday, to return to London.

The palace said the return was on schedule. A week earlier, Prince Andrew's estranged wife, the Duchess of York, returned south to England after a brief stay at Balmoral. That was dominated by the publication of pictures of her snuggling topless with John Bryan, an American who has said he is her financial adviser.

The Sun, Britain's top-selling newspaper, which was scooped by the rival Daily Mirror with the topless pictures of the former Sarah Ferguson, said it had had the "Dianagate" tape for years since it was recorded by an amateur radio scanner. The man on the tape was speaking from a mobile telephone.

The Sun said it released the tape because U.S. publications and British rivals were going ahead.

Since the publication in June of Diana: The True Story, a book which quoted friends, including Mr. Gilbey, depicting the royal marriage as a sham, polls show Princess Diana has most sympathy.



In 1992, women have the freedom to dress according to their own wishes — some choose the veil, and others do not

هناك من لا يلبس الحجاب

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Sept. 10

8:30 Empty Nest

Good Neighbour Harry

The Louisa, the neighbour feels very lonely and wants to be closer to Doctor Harry. She does it in an annoying manner.

9:10 W.L.O.U.

Cradle To Grave

The crew of Channel 12 news department investigate patient abuse.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

Fire

Starring: Alex Cord and Donna Mills

In a small peaceful town a fire engulfs the nearby forest. The inhabitants forget about their differences and join forces to extinguish the fire.

Friday, Sept. 11

8:30 Golden Girls

The old woman, Sophia, tells her daughter and two friends that God has talked to her in a funeral and asked her to become a nun.

9:10 The Good Guys

Horseplay

10:00 News In English

10:20 E.L.C.I.D.

Blake's half brother comes to visit, and he is found to be part of a scam investigated by Black and Bromley.

11:10 The Powers That Be

Bill Gets Shot

During the celebration of the daughter's wedding anniversary, the senator is shot by mistake.

Saturday, July 12

8:30 Super Bloopers

9:00 Encounter

9:30 Varieties

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film

She Knows Too Much

Starring: John Bennett

Sunday, Sept. 13

8:30 Coach

The War Of The Doper

9:10 Land Of Birds

10:00 News In English

10:20 Midnight Caller

The story of a woman who was abused by her husband.

Monday, Sept. 14

8:30 Close To Home

And Then There Was One

James finds himself alone

9:10 Gone To The Dogs

Larry feels lonely and asks his wife to join him for a trip to the Bahamas.

10:00 News In English

10:20 The Strauss Family

Adelle

Tuesday, Sept. 15

8:30 Acropolis Now

9:00 Mr. Bean

9:10 TECC

Rock A Buy Baby

The best intentions may not always be right — or enough.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Karate Kid (Part II)

Wednesday, Sept. 16

8:30 Saved By The Bell

Zak competes with Jessie's group on New Business Ideas.

9:00 Wednesday Form

9:30 Chedo

The Murder Story

Simon Charles, city accountant by training and comedian by inclination, has been invited to Arlington Grange, stately home of Mrs. Peacock. Throughout his weekend stay he contrives to annoy all of Mrs. Peacock's guests — the Reverend Green, Professor Plum and Colonel Mustard — as he reminds them about problems they have had with their personal finances. Miss Scarlett, glamorous step-daughter of Mrs. Peacock, has also lost the small fortune she asked Charles to invest. And where are Mrs. White's life savings? Reason enough surely for some murderous retribution. But who committed the foul deed; in what room; and with what weapon?

10:00 News In English

10:20 Bethune

Dr. Bethune succeeds in his mission and establishes medical units in the field until he becomes ill...

Shylo

By E. Yaghi

When Jamal was a very young child living in the suburbs of Amman, he used to try to catch the golden rays of the sun, slide down silver moonbeams, chase honeybees and for hours on end, string bouquets of gathered flowers into wreaths from the rose garden in his yard. "Daddy," he would often say, "come and play with me!"

His father usually answered, "I'm sorry son, but I'm too busy. Some other time."

The small boy would look disappointed but if he saw his mother, he would clap his baby hands and plead, "Please Mommy, come and play with me!"

His mother invariably answered, "not now child, I've got so much housework to do because of my job you know. I have no time for games. Run along now."

So the boy would dejectedly and quietly skip off to a corner by himself. Since he was an only child, he was often left to his own devices. He didn't make friends easily and because he lacked companionship, he sought and found a friend in his mind. He invented a shadow of himself and named him Shylo. When no one was looking or listening, the boy would softly call, "Shylo, where are you? come and play with me, I need you!"

Shylo would never fail to appear and the two friends would then play with the golden rays of the sun, slide down moonbeams, chase honeybees and make wreaths out of fragrant red and white roses. Whenever he was needed, the imaginary friend was there. He was the last one that Jamal would talk to before he dozed off to sleep and to whom he poured out his heart to and the one to whom he confided all his secrets, and Shylo was the first one the boy spoke to when he woke up.

At first the boy's parents didn't notice his preoccupation with his invisible friend. But one day his mother remarked to her husband: "Did you notice how Jamal has become withdrawn? He never plays with other children. That's not normal!"

Whereas the father replied: "Don't be silly. If you want the boy to have friends have more children or put him in school early!"

She gasped: "How could I ever have more children and ruin my figure and my career? Putting him in school is much more practical."

At first it was difficult for the child to form meaningful relationships with his classmates but at least he became exposed to children his own age. Sometimes, he wouldn't speak to Shylo for hours until after he charged home after school and quickly ate his dinner and then he would search in the corners of his mind and murmur, "Shylo, where are you? Come let's play!"

Shylo wasted no time arriving and soon the two were babbling together and laughing and playing as heartily as ever. Jamal even let his mysterious friend help him with his homework and both would count, add, subtract and work out grammar exercises together. Whenever a busy parent

looked in their son's room to check on him, a long parental shadow would darken the entrance and Shylo would disappear in a puff until that parent left. Jamal could only laugh and say: "Oh, Shylo, why are you so afraid?"

But they both knew that it was better to keep their relationship confidential. Unfortunately, the boy grew up, found other interests and quit calling his intimate friend. He no longer whispered in secluded corners, "Shylo, where are you? Come and play with me."

Eventually, he even found a replacement for his former best friend. He got married and entrusted to his wife all the love he had once invested in Shylo and, as he had with his childhood mate, he bared to her the secrets of his soul and even told her about Shylo, asking her: "Do you understand, promise me you do!"

A fire burned in her eyes and although her smile looked sweet, his wife appeared restless, but nevertheless unconvincedly said, "I understand."

"I can fly!" boasted Jamal. "Will you hold my hand?" Oh, he didn't really mean he could fly, but he meant that because of his love for her he could accomplish the impossible and would she support him? She looked as if she could really read his mind when she replied: "Of course you can fly! Take my hand and let me fly with you!"

Time passed and on one dark and stormy day, his wife approached him and said: "I'm tired of your fantasies! Betrayal was written all over her face. 'I'm sorry, I can't stay with you any longer. You'll have to find someone else!'"

His dreams were shattered when she left. The taste of desertion was bitter in his mouth. For weeks he tossed and turned at night trying to sleep. He hardly ate and he became cynical and disillusioned with the world. After weeks of restless nights and a poor appetite, his eyes grew dark black circles under them. He had allowed himself to sink into a state of deep depression. His only hope was his parents' rose garden. One bright afternoon when he was visiting his parents, he ventured outside to that magical land where he had chased sunshine when he was small. He thought about his old and true friend Shylo and how they had once shared their lives together. Shylo had never deserted him or betrayed him, in fact, it was Jamal who had forsaken his invisible pal. He began to search in the corners of the rose garden as he had once done when he had no one else. He looked behind the peach trees and when he sat down under a plum tree he called in a humble disbelieving voice: "Shylo, where are you? I really need you now. Please come here!"

Shylo answered from the depths of the inner sanctum of Jamal's mind: "I am here my friend. Where have you been for so long? I thought you had forgotten me for eternity, but I always hoped that one day you would remember me and the good times we had together. Remember that I was always faithful to you and whenever you called me, I came."

Australian cuisine: Witchetty Grub Soup and other goodies

By Geoff Spencer

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS — SYDNEY — Start with witchetty-grub soup. Next comes Emu-Egg Pasta, with warrigal greens and yams on the side. Finish with wat-tlesed ice cream and Queensland peach pie.

This is "bush tucker," native food that kept the Aborigines satisfied and healthy for thousands of years but was virtually ignored by white settlers, who introduced European plants and animals.

Now a few chefs have transformed bush tucker into haute cuisine, Australian style.

Delicacies like char-grilled yabbie, a freshwater crustacean, and kangaroo fillet have crept onto otherwise conventional menus. More adventurous restaurateurs serve indigenous food exclusively.

"It's nutritious and rich in flavour," said chef Andrew Fielke. "Because it naturally belongs to Australia, there's no need to use fertilizers or pesticides, either."

"Australia has some great multicultural cuisines, but it's

time that we started using our own natural foods."

Mr. Fielke opened the Red Ochre Grill in Adelaide, capital of South Australia, in July, displacing an Italian bistro on a street dominated by Asian and Mediterranean eating houses.

Jean-Paul Bruneteau, born in France and raised in Australia, serves pan-fried stingray, bunya-nut vegetable torte and smoked emu salad at riberies, his Sydney restaurant named for a native fruit related to the clove.

In October, he plans to open another riberie in London, using ingredients flown from Australia.

Mr. Bruneteau started experimenting with native foods 10 years ago and now produces a cuisine that blends bush tucker with European and Asian styles.

His knowledge comes from the journals of European explorers who observed aboriginal traditions in the 19th century, and from aborigines who have retained the old customs.

"At school, I was taught that the aborigines had little to eat and barely survived,"

Mr. Bruneteau said. "But that's nonsense."

He argues that the aboriginal diet was superior to that of the Europeans who colonised Australia two centuries ago.

"English convicts were sent to Australia for stealing loaves of bread," he said, "but the aborigines had access to a wonderful variety of seafood, meats and fruits."

The chef said he was amazed to learn that the first settlers nearly starved while awaiting supplies from England, rather than learn from the aborigines.

Vic Cherikoff, who runs the small but growing Bush Tucker Supply Co. from his home in the Sydney suburbs, laments the emphasis of Australian agriculture on imported crops and animals.

"European farming has caused great environmental damage with the cutting down of forests, soil erosion and the overuse of chemicals and irrigation," he said.

Australia's only native commercial crop is the Macadamia Nut, which was developed only after farmers in Hawaii spotted its potential

early in this century.

More progress has been made with indigenous meat production. Crocodiles, which taste like chicken, are protected in the wild but also raised on farms. So, too, is the emu, a large, flightless bird that tastes something like a wild turkey.

Kangaroos are shot to save pasture for sheep and cattle. Some states prohibit the sale of kangaroo meat, but where it is legal, it is promoted as a lean, low-cholesterol alternative to venison.

Mr. Cherikoff hopes indigenous foods ultimately will be raised with as much attention as the imports. Meanwhile, much of his produce grows wild on bushland owned by aboriginal tribes or on unused parts of farms and ranches.

Some is even gathered in suburbs of Sydney, a city of 3.8 million.

"People have native food trees and plants growing in their backyards, but just don't realise it," Mr. Cherikoff said.

"Usually they are more than happy for us to take the stuff away for free."

China gushes praise for once-banned film director

PEKING (R) — In a sharp turn-about, China's official press is suddenly heaping praise on controversial film director Zhang Yimou — after Peking's cultural commissars twice tried to kill his chances of winning an Oscar.

"Faultless" exclaimed Shanghai's Wen Hui Bao after reporters viewed Zhang's new film Qiu Ju Goes To Court, gold medal winner at China's recent Changchun Film Festival.

"Directed and acted at the highest level. Thoughtful, artistic and enjoyable," said the Peking Daily.

"A realistic and unadorned work about the everyday lives of normal people," said the staid People's Daily, official mouthpiece of the Communist Party.

"Leading comrades and members of the film circle all give this film an enthusiastic response."

Zhang is no stranger to good reviews — his films have repeatedly won prizes overseas, making him arguably the most famous film director in China today.

But the waterfall of praise from China's official press is unprecedented.

Peking has only just lifted an official ban on Zhang's two latest films, Ju Dou and Raise The Red Lantern, after senior leader Deng Xiaoping renewed his call for more liberal thinking.

Ju Dou was the centre of a controversy in 1991 after Peking sought to yank the film from consideration for Hollywood's Academy Awards because it "exposed too much darkness" about Chinese society and failed to portray Socialist values.

Raise The Red Lantern was also quickly banned at home, although it too was nominated for an Academy Award this year over China's

objections. Neither film won the prize in the end.

Film Minister Ai Zhisheng launched a stinging sideways attack on Zhang's work in 1991, saying "artistic" directors were filling China's cinemas with unwholesome visions of society.

"There are too many bandits, eunuchs, prostitutes and spies on the (Chinese) screen," Mr. Ai said. "These should not be central characters in films. This practice must be stopped."

After two years of dry Socialist-style blockbusters such as The Story Of Mao Tse-Tung and Decisive Battles, China's film audience seems ready to return to Zhang and his perennial leading lady, beautiful actress Gong Li.

Education Minister Li Tieying, a member of the all-powerful Communist Party politburo, wasted no time

in going to see Zhang's film when he attended the official opening of Qiu Ju Goes To Court at Peking's Great Hall of the People.

"Li Tieying expressed approval for the movie, and congratulated Zhang Yimou and other people involved with the film," the People's Daily said.

Qiu Ju Goes to Court, Zhang's first film set in the present day, describes the legal travails of a young woman who is seeking to right a wrong done to her husband by the village chief.

"The whole film has a strong atmosphere of real life and (reflects) local characteristics," Tianjin's Jin Wan Bao said Tuesday.

"The story develops as naturally as the clouds float and water flows, and it provides enlightenment on the three essential questions of love, logic and law."

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuaib

DID YOU KNOW?

— In the United Kingdom post cards were first issued in 1870, with the object of enabling correspondents to transmit a message or greeting in brief form. They were originally supplied through the post office with a stamp already printed thereon.

— Princess Ida is a comic opera written by W.S. Gilbert, composed by Arthur Sullivan, and produced on Jan. 5, 1884, at the Savoy, where it attained 246 performances. — The pygmy is a name applied to diminutive peoples. Derived from the Gr. Pygme, the measurement of the forearm and the closed fist, the term was used by Homer and Herodotus for fabled races in Ethiopia and India.

— The Latin Quarter (Fr. Quartier Latin) is a District of Paris, south of the Seine. It contains the Sorbonne and was a resort for scholars. It was called by that name because Latin was their usual speech. Later it became noted as the resort of students of art.

JOKES AND CRACKS:

He: Your late husband had been very dear to me. So please give me something that he had left to keep as a souvenir from an intimate friend.

She: May the mercy of Allah be upon him. He has left nothing but me!

The wife was still murmuring in bed, then stretching her hand in preparation for switching the light off she said to her husband: "Have you shut everything, dear?"

Abruptly he answered: "Yes, my darling, except for your mouth."

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

— Excuse me, sir. Are you an American?
Luthan sayyedi. Hal santa Amreeki?

— I'm an American... from Ohio.
Ama Amreeki min wlayet Ohio.

— How long have you been in Jordan?
Kam El-modda alati kadaytoha fi urdan.

— Two weeks only. Oobo'ais fakat.

— Have you enjoyed your stay here?
Hal tamat'tata bil-ekama hama?

— Of course, Amman is an ancient, beautiful and calm place. Tab'an. Amman balad kadem wa-jamal wa-hadi.

— Did you come here alone?
Hal atayta ala hama lewahidak?

— No, I came with the whole family: my wife, two daughters and son.

La, ana atayt ma'a el-oura kollaha: zawjati, al-ibnatain wal-ibn.

— What attracted your attention in this city?
Maza najabak fi hakehi al-madina?

— Its clean streets, economic progress, architecture and the generosity of its people.
Al-shawar? al-nazifa, al-takaddom, al-fikendi, al-umran wa-karam al-basha.

— Is this the first time you have visited Jordan?
Hal hakehi awwal sayara li-urdan?

— Yes, I hope I'll be able to visit it again with other friends next year.
Na'am, wa-staqanna sayaraha maratan thanya ma'a awfika akhareen fi-sana al-kadima.

— You're welcome in your second home.
Ablan wa-sahlan fee baladak al-thani.

— Thanks a lot. Shukran jazelan.

PUZZLES

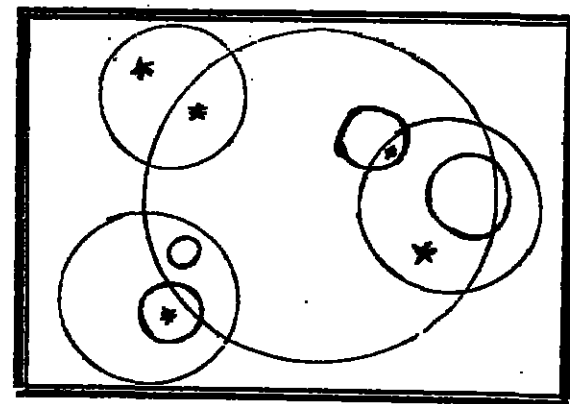
(1) HALF-MINUTE PROBLEM

Below are six numbers with no immediately apparent connection between them. However there is a connection and you are asked to say what number would come next if the line were continued systematically.

7 12 22 37 57 82

(2) MEMORY TEST

Here is a diagram consisting of 8 circles and 5 stars. Study it for two minutes and then see how many of the questions given below concerning it you can answer.



1. How many of the circles contain other circles?
2. How many circles are contained completely within other circles?
3. Are many of the stars contained in one circle only? If so how many?
4. How many of the circles do not contain a star?
5. How many, if any, of the stars are contained in more than two circles?
6. How many of the circles contain both circle (s) and star (s)?

TEST YOUR GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

(A) What was the old name of the capital of Japan?
(B) Give the English meaning for the following Arabic words:

1. Jehad
2. Qadi
3. Bulbul
4. Intefada
5. Muezzin

(C) Why has music been called the oldest and the youngest of the arts?

(D) What does the term "No Man's Land" mean?

(E) Who wrote the following plays: Beyond The Horizon; The Family Reunion; Volpone?

(F) Name THREE British newspapers each starting with "morning"?

Masur a hit with New York Philharmonic

By Dan Cox
Reuters

NEW YORK — The music critics love him. So do the fans. The only one who does not seem completely pleased with his performance — after his first year in one of classical music's top jobs — is Kurt Masur himself.

The beefy, jovial conductor of the New York Philharmonic, who took over from Zubin Mehta last autumn, appraises his first year as a success but says he needs to get the audiences more involved.

"The situation of the orchestra in New York is a little frustrating. The orchestra doesn't always play the role that should be played by the New York Philharmonic," he said.

Masur told Reuters he wants to make the Philharmonic, going into its 150th year, more than simply the finest American orchestra. He wants it to be the centre-piece of cultural life in New York.

"In New York you find a lot of other attractions," he said. "But if you go to Cleveland you see the whole city is proud of its orchestra. It's a major part of the cultural life there."

Nonetheless, critics hail the German maestro for

breathing life into an orchestra many felt had become bored and boring under Mehta. "He has revitalised the orchestra," said the New York newspaper Newsday's music critic Peter Goodman. "He's got them interested in playing again."

Boisterous and outgoing at 65, Masur made the Philharmonic more accessible by simply opening up the process. He talks to the audience and sometimes does question-and-answer sessions after the concerts.

But his eagerness to please New York audiences doesn't translate into pandering on musical choices. Masur mixes the classics with avant-garde and contemporary works.

"Where the ears of the listeners are confronted by another sound and then comes a well-known sound, then the old can be quite new," Masur said.

"You can't expect everyone to love it, but if you just have someone who says it wasn't so bad, then you've succeeded," he said.

Masur's background reflects his eclectic musical tastes. Since 1970, he's been director of the Gewandhaus Orchestra in Leipzig, east Germany, a job he still holds part-time.

Accepting his first major orchestral appointment in

1955 with the Dresden Philharmonic, Masur later directed the Berlin Komische Oper. Since then, he has either directed or guest conducted nearly every major orchestra in the world, including the New York Philharmonic dozens of times.

Masur gets most excited about a massive commissioning of 36 new works by American composers over the next 10 years to celebrate the New York Philharmonic's 150th anniversary this fall.

He said he's looking for a composing voice that might define American contemporary music the way Shostakovich does the Russian musical language. "We will hear more contemporary pieces," he said. Lots of those pieces were already commissioned in the time of Zubin Mehta.

"I want to build for the future. I want to have cooperation with special composers. I want to support and facilitate new American pieces."

On the podium Masur is a crowd pleaser, flailing his arms about wildly and often pulling at his thinning hair. He has an easy-going relationship with the orchestra musicians who applaud his accessibility.

But he is ever on the lookout for guest conductors like James Levine or Sir Georg



Kurt Masur

Solti. "We would like to have all the leading conductors," he said. "Maybe we can find a way. This would make life more fruitful for all of us."

Once the toast of east Germany, where he almost became the country's president in its final months, Masur has now taken to wearing Texas dress shirts and bolo ties.

He still spends a healthy chunk of the season in with the Gewandhaus Orchestra

in Leipzig and guest conducting elsewhere.

But he admits New York, with its hectic pace, is becoming more of a home to him, his Japanese wife Tomoko and their 15-year-old son Ken David.

"I love it here now," he said. "I feared the city at first, then I discovered that people are lovelier here. People are trying to get connected. That touched me."

Ireland reaches out in bid for film glory

By Paul Majendie
Reuters

DUBLIN — When My Left Foot scooped two Hollywood Oscars in 1990, Ireland toasted its film industry's arrival on the international stage.

Now, two years later, all it has to celebrate is an Oscar for the make-up artist who created Cyrano De Bergerac's nose.

Ireland's celluloid dreams have melted, its bid for movie glory on a par with Australia was short-lived.

Now a Dublin chartered accountancy firm and Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds have united in an unlikely alliance to adopt the old Andy Warhol dictum, "being good in business is the most fascinating kind of art."

Ireland, rugged and windswept, boasts some of the finest cinematic backdrops in the world. It also has 500 internationally recognised film technicians and superb production facilities.

They could be used to make up to 12 feature films a year.

And yet only 13 indigenous

films and 15 foreign-funded movies were shot in Ireland between 1987 and 1991, according to a forthright report by accountants Coopers And Lybrand.

The report avoids lecturing the government about more state aid and stresses that fiercely nationalistic and proud Ireland does not need to produce a string of films "to show the world how we really are."

For art and commerce to co-exist happily in what will always be a high-risk business, finance is the key and spreading it far and wide is the best way of turning that key, the report said. Producers must look for strong market appeal.

The government listened. Within days of the report being published, Prime Minister Reynolds announced that Ireland will join Eurimages, a Pan-European fund which gives financial support to independent producers and distributors.

To qualify for that support, at least three independent producers from the fund's 21 member countries have to be involved.

Wider horizons could open

up a potential European audience of 345 million and loosen Hollywood's stranglehold grip on the international film market, say supporters of Eurimages.

In its first three years, Eurimages has supported 100 co-productions worth a total of about \$350 million.

My Left Foot, the story of crippled Dublin writer Christy Brown, transformed the image of the Irish film industry.

Its producer, Noel Pearson, followed up with The Field, for which Richard Harris won a Best Actor Oscar nomination.

Pearson argues that Canadian and Australian films became too oversubscribed and state-subsidised.

His message to film makers is simple: "Forget subsidies, forget tax breaks. You have to feel it in your gut that a film just has to be made. We should quite simply make this (Ireland) a place where films are made."

"If the story-telling abilities of the paddies that we have had for centuries could be transformed into cinema, then we would be tremendous."

Paris: What's new in the world of couture?

FOR a long time now, prêt-à-porter has called the tune in fashion, determining the trends. In contrast, haute couture is increasingly becoming an independent art form and should also be regarded as such (incidentally dispelling the usual criticism: "But no one could wear that!").

For autumn/winter 1992/93 Paris showed a past and present blend of bygone cultural treasures and the needs of a present-day lifestyle. There were some respectable classics revamped in an upmarket hippie style. Couture details such as narrow piping, passementerie, lace applications, intarsias, trompe l'oeil effects, outsize collars and trimmings give the simple shapes that special touch.

Couturiers see the coming winter's silhouettes differently, but always close-fitting. Skirts are sometimes short, sometimes long. Trousers are the alternative: Cigarette-slim for daytime wear, transparent for evenings or else lacy and cut like jeans. Lines have become simpler and — with the exception of Saint Laurent — processing more elaborate. It is the fabrics which make the models distinctive. They are works of art in themselves.

What could be more captivating than the multi-layer tulle novelties strewn with pastel-coloured satin rosebuds from a St. Gall embroidery house, shown

by Nina Ricci? Switzerland also furnishes the wool guipure lace, embroidered velvet and unusual combination of glossy sequins on black and white brocken-check tweed. Fabric with this much 'personality' can only be shown at its best by an ultra-simple cut.

Lacroix applies white St. Gall guipure, onto traditional, shopaholic fabrics such as a coffee brown pin-stripe as novel 'dinner' suit stripes. Dior adds black etched embroidery embellished with jet beads as 'faux poche' to ultra-slim grey flannel trousers. Black velvet epaulettes with jet fringes and dangling ropes of pearls decorate a stark grey two-piece by Ungaro, paying allegiance to a rather theatrical military look. Surrealistic touches permeate his collection too: Salvador Dai's eye and Man Ray's red lips are used as signatures, embroidered or printed onto black sweaters and grey frocks.

Reddish-gold bayadère stripes, brocades from Switzerland, were worked into long blazer-like jackets worn with slightly flared evening skirts. Baroque motifs are embroidered, matelassé, laqué or appear on brocade. Scherrer worked combinations on old gold or old silver with ice blue or rose to create sheath dresses and restrained bell-shaped skirts.

Two-pieces tend to have diminutive peplums or hip-

length jackets. They close up to the neck, are collarless or have one button marking the waist. Shoulders are rounded, sleeves narrow. Blouses are few and far between. Coats are in bulky materials: Mohair, double-face and often trimmed with fur. Quilted silk blousons are on equal terms with short swinging styles, short length trench coats and ulsters. Fabric and designs are dominant when it comes to coats and jackets. The throw-over shawl has vanished as a fashionable accessory.

Jersey and slub tweed are the slinky materials that help the new fashion philosophy to create its simply-cut lines. Printed Swiss silk such as faille with big cat patterns (peau de bête) or matelassé reptile prints feature amongst this winter's relatively economically used prints, most of them in the brown or black spectrum.

In total contrast to the classic Chanel style with braiding, chains and camellias, Lagerfeld sees the young Chanel woman in almost transparent wool mousseline, thereby triggering a re-emergence of this Swiss fabric speciality. Tight bodices are very important; they make the most of a slim waist and put the spotlight on femininity. Cord guipure akin to tweed and silver spun yarn on tulle testify to the creativity and to the high technical know-

how of Switzerland's embroidery designers.

For evening wear imagination knows no bounds. From crochet lace to shimmering gold lamé matelassé, vividly colourful fancy stones such as the rainbow diamonds from St. Gall.

Colourful chenille pom-poms garnish the golden stand-up collar of a black organza body at Lacroix. The unusual mix of patterns and materials has developed into a new style patchwork. Textiles, leather, metallics, glass beads, crocheting and plaiting are pieced together like collages to create truly striking works of art.

Yves Saint Laurent is the last remaining exponent of haute couture in the original, classic sense: namely the embellishment of women through beautiful dresses. His collection is stark: devoid of embroidery, spectacular beading or multi-layered fabrics. He uses pure silk côtelé weave in restrained ruby or pitch black silk velvet façonné with a smocked effect — both from Switzerland — for bodices for intimate evening gatherings. Two-pieces, dinner jackets, cocktail and evening gowns envelop the body in the most matter-of-fact way. The only eye-catching elements are giant, jewelled and ear-rings.

Gold-printed faille from Givenchy and silk cord



Ultra-fashionable guipure embroidery in black on black silk velvet used by Emanuel Ungaro in the simple lines of this figure-hugging bodice.

from Saint Laurent are just two of the fabric novelties with which Zurich's silk industry dazzled the Paris audiences. Zurich is also the home of the printed velvets and panne that were much in evidence. Black remains the favourite for next winter, together with the new tones of brown and a whole palette of beautiful mixed

shades. Saint Laurent concentrated his show on 50 models — his shortest presentation for 20 years. The protracted applause during the 30-minute presentation was also directed, last but not least, to the creative achievements of Swiss fabric designers — Publicity Centre of Swiss Textiles.

Scottish tartan finds new fans home, abroad

By Jill Serjeant
Reuters

EDINBURGH, Scotland — You don't have to be a Campbell or a MacDonald to sport your own tartan these days.

Long a symbol of Scotland, the multi-coloured check is being adopted by companies, soccer clubs and universities as far afield as Spain and Japan.

Tartan is enjoying a new lease of life, both as a fashion accessory and as a badge of identity for the 50 million people of Scottish descent scattered over the globe.

"From the clan chief to the smallest pensioner in the most remote part of Canada or Australia, they all feel they belong to Scotland and wearing tartan binds them together," said Betty Davies, an Edinburgh-based fashion designer.

She runs a thriving business creating tartans for businesses and individuals keen to highlight their associations with Scotland.

British Gas Scotland, the Church of Scotland and Glasgow soccer clubs, Rangers and Celtic, are just a few of those who in the past 10 years have invented their own distinct versions of the boldly-patterned cloth once regarded as the preserve of highland clans.

The hankering for a tartan of one's own has also been extended to institutions like the University of Chicago — founded by the son of a rebel Scot — and to Spain where nationalists wore their new Catalan tartan during the Barcelona Olympic Games.

"There is a definite resurgence in the fashion for tartan," said Blair Urquhart, deputy registrar of the Scottish Tartans Society which has 2,073 different designs recorded on computer.

Urquhart said the society was currently registering about 20 new tartans annually and had doubled the size of its offices this year to cope with the surge.

Although the best-known tartans are predominantly red, green, blue and black, no colours are out of bounds, allowing designers to choose an infinite variety of colour combinations.

Highland roots are not a necessity when it comes to having a tartan created. The big Japanese department store Takashimaya simply wanted to create a striking

house identity.

"The Japanese have a great sense of colour and a great sense of the family, like the Scots. They are also very traditional and they like tartans very much," said Davies, who created the Takashimaya tartan. Scots have mixed feelings about seeing the traditional patterns on their kilts being transformed into corporate uniforms, let alone wallpaper and furnishing fabrics.

"Scotland is the worst country in the world in which to sell fashion tartans because there is a resistance to wearing any tartan that isn't your own," said Davies, a "foreigner" born in the central English city of Nottingham. But most of the designs defended so fiercely as ancient badges of clan identity were in fact invented in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Researchers say few patterns date before a 1746 law which banned the wearing of tartan or kilts shortly after the union of Scotland and England because of their association with rebellion.

The ban was lifted in 1782 and the former distrust of the highlanders quickly gave way to fascination even before Britain's Queen Victoria enthusiastically embraced tartan, along with all other things Scottish.

Old designs were revived and new tartans were created, including a grey, black and red design in 1860 by Queen Victoria's husband Prince Albert that was known as the Balmoral tartan and reserved exclusively for the royal household.

There are no penalties for outsiders wearing a tartan now registered by its clan name or by one of the Scottish regiments. But etiquette demands that true Scots should confine themselves to the approved family version.

"If you met a member of your clan and you were wearing the wrong tartan, he would probably take it out on (punish) you," said Urquhart.

However the tartan kilt now increasingly worn by Scottish men at weddings and other social functions holds no allure for Urquhart.

"I had to wear a kilt to school when I was a child but I would never wear one now. There are plenty of Scots who would die a hundred deaths before putting one on," he noted wryly.



Christian Lacroix gives this flannel pants suit with masculine vertical stripes an eye-catching feature and a feminine touch.



Truly regal elegance, this evening gown is by Christian Lacroix



Big cats printed on pure silk Swips panne velvet inspired Yves Saint Laurent to create this flattering ensemble

Mother's smoking linked to behaviour problems in children

By Brenda C. Coleman
The Associated Press
CHICAGO — The more cigarettes a mother smokes, the more behaviour problems her children are likely to have, researchers say.

Women who smoke at least a pack a day have children with twice the rate of extreme behaviour problems — such as anxiety, disobedience or conflict with others — compared with children of non-smokers, the researchers say. Refraining from smoking

only during pregnancy didn't help, according to the study published in September's *Pediatrics* journal.

Children of pack-a-day mothers who smoked after the child's birth had problems just as often as children of pack-a-day women who smoked during pregnancy and afterward.

Smoking less than a pack a day also was linked to elevated rates of behaviour problems, but the rates were not as high as for heavier

smokers, the researchers said. They used data from a Labour Department survey in which parents of 2,256 youngsters ages 4 to 11 were interviewed. The survey didn't ask about fathers' smoking.

"We are aware of no other study to date that has investigated the relationship between maternal smoking and behaviour problems in children," said the authors, led by Dr. Michael Weitzman, associate chairman of pediat-

rics at the University of Rochester School of Medicine in New York State.

"It does not surprise me at all that this association exists," said Dr. Loraine Stern, an associate clinical professor of pediatrics at the University of California, Los Angeles.

"There's thousands of toxins in cigarette smoke," any one of which could affect behaviour in children, she said.

Surprisingly, Dr. Weitzman said, smoke exposure

rivalled other major stresses on children — very low birth weight, poverty, chronic illness, parents' divorce — in being linked with elevated rates of serious behaviour problems.

"When you add these up, they cluster together and multiply each other," Dr. Weitzman said.

For example, a boy born weighing less than 3.3 pounds (1.5 kg) to a mother who smokes at least a pack a day was eight times more likely to

show extreme behaviour problems than a normal-weight boy of a non-smoking mother, the study said.

If that high-risk boy also had asthma, his likelihood of having extreme behaviour problems was 19 times higher than the normal-risk boy, the study said.

Dr. Weitzman's team said maternal smoking during and after pregnancy may alter brain structure or function, with long-term effects on children's behaviour.

Smoking also might alter maternal behaviour in such a way to elicit problems in children, the researchers said. Or the findings could even mean that mothers who smoke are more intolerant of children's behaviour and more likely to report it as bothersome, they said.

Dr. Weitzman cautioned that the study does not prove maternal smoking causes behaviour problems in children, "but it very strongly suggests

there is something there." Problems included being antisocial, anxious or depressed, headstrong, hyperactive, having conflicts with peers, and being exceptionally immature.

Maternal smoking has previously been linked to increased rates of low birth weight, infant death, respiratory infections, asthma, and modest impairments of thinking development, the researchers said.

Colitis: Biotech antibodies can cut out cortisone treatment

By Ulrich Bahnsen

AN INCURABLY sick man walked down the gangway of Air Force One at Cologne-Bonn airport on 26 August 1959. He had his own physicians with him, partly because his complaint, Morbus Crohn, was largely unknown in Germany in those days. He was none other than US President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Thirty years and over three decades of intensive research later this chronic intestinal inflammation, an ailment that has been dubbed rheumatism of the intestine, is still very mysterious.

The inflammation occurs in

bouts, like rheumatic inflammation of the joints. Patients suffer from painful spells of cramp and chronic diarrhoea. Some are taken short up to 40 times a day.

Inflammation often deforms the intestinal mucous membrane so severely that frequent surgery is needed. Many patients end up with an artificial rectum for the rest of their lives.

So the most important target, as far as doctors are concerned, is to suppress these recurring bouts of inflammation. They occur when the patient's immune system wages a defensive campaign against real or im-

aginary intruders in the intestine.

The medics hope to intervene in this immune over-reaction using special antibodies, Y-shaped proteins. A team of doctors at Munich

University Hospital has treated 12 patients with a so-called CD4 antibody of this kind.

These antibodies, which patients had injected regularly over a period of seven days, are capable of latching on to the CD4 molecule that sits on the surface of certain defence cells that go by the name of T helpers.

These cells are deactivated

once the CD4 antibodies have latched on to them, says Kai Deutsch, the Munich doctor in charge of the project. All patients are reported to have shown clear signs of an improvement in their symptoms.

They have all had no further difficulties for up to eight months. What is more, half of them have been able to dispense entirely with cortisone treatment to prevent inflammation. The other half can make do with much lower doses of cortisone.

CD4 antibodies are custom-built products of genetic engineering designed by Professor Gert Riemüller and

his associates at Munich University and by American specialists.

They artificially joined part of a mouse antibody that was suitable for recognising the human CD4 molecule and the molecular framework of a human antibody.

Medical research scientists hope this so-called antibody chimera can be used to undermine the patient's immune defence system. The immune system would strike back at the complete mouse antibody by sending in antibodies to combat it.

Medical research findings about chronic intestinal inflammation are still fragmen-

tary and contradictory. What is more, it is not an entirely uniform complaint.

Medics distinguish between Morbus Crohn and Colitis ulcerosa, but the symptoms of the two are so similar that even experts have difficulty in reaching a clear and definite diagnosis. "With 20 per cent of patients you can't tell for sure," says Hamburg gastro-enterologist Andreas Raedler.

Professor Raedler is one of the most widely experienced specialists in intestinal inflammation research. At Eppendorf University Hospital, Hamburg, he looks af-

ter about 300 patients.

Colitis ulcerosa has lately been identified as an autoimmune complaint. Patients suffer from attacks on their intestinal mucous membrane by their own immune system.

What causes Morbus Crohn is still unclear. There are indications that it may be a bacterial or viral infection, but scientists have yet to track down the offender or offenders.

Eating habits seem, however, to be a contributory factor in both cases. Neither is known to occur in the Third World. They occur most frequently in Scandina-

via, while in Germany over 80,000 patients suffer from one or the other, and the number is growing.

Conventional methods of treatment are unsatisfactory, especially for patients seriously affected. Steroids, mainly cortisone, can usually keep inflammation at bay, but the dosage needed is often so high that harmful side-effects occur.

"The intestine is at ease but the bones are ruined and

the patient is in a wheelchair," Professor Raedler says. "These two complaints are sisters — and ugly sisters" — Die Welt.

Welcome to summer camp for children with AIDS

By Steven Radwell
Reuters

MIDDLEVILLE, New Jersey — Tommy, Rebecca and a half-dozen other 4-and-5-year-olds tumble over a gauntlet of red hoops and blue mats, unimpressed by the first-aid kit on the counter behind them, as their counselor shouts encouragement.

Across the road, older children in yellow plastic kayaks and orange lifevests skim over the clear green water of

Swartswood lake. On the waterfront picnic table lies a glassine packet stuffed with beige rubber gloves, foil packs of alcohol swabs, band-aids, tape and syringes.

Except for the ever-present medical supplies, it is a scene typical of many places in the United States, where youngsters flee sweltering cities in July and August for a week or more in the open air.

But the camp run by Herbert G. Birch Services, a non-profit services agency, is

different. It is one of a handful across the country for children with AIDS.

This year it is offering two-week sessions at a girl scout camp in northwestern New Jersey. Nearly 50 staff members, about half of them volunteers, were hosts to 31 families from Metropolitan New York, including 68 children and 31 adults.

For the mums and dads, the foster parents, the aunts and other care givers, camp means a break from dragging

the kids to the doctor, the hospital, the social services clinic. It means no cooking or cleaning or giving medicine, often five or six kinds, several times a day.

But to the kids, it is just plain fun.

The two-dozen-plus counselors, mostly college-age volunteers, help organise each day's activities, from arts and crafts to rope climbing to fishing.

A staff of four nurses, four social workers and two

psychologists are always present, and staff-run support groups give care givers a chance to discuss the tremendous stresses of life with acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

"I worry so much about me and my husband and my kids," Myra, 28, tells a visitor. She and her husband Orlando are infected with the virus that causes AIDS, as is 21-month-old Nicholas, their daughter. Their 11-year-old son, Orlando Jr., has a healthy adopted 5-year-old boy.

So far the family has mostly avoided infections. They pay extra attention to hygiene and diet. Treatment is sought quickly for any sore,

even a blister.

"We plan to live that long so that we can tell them, both of them, what we went through and that we survived it," said Orlando, 32, a potato chip distributor in the Bronx.

"We talk to them a lot," he said, fingering a gold necklace of Jesus in a crown of thorns.

But he admitted he and his wife have not told the children what they know, they say, day after day. That no cure has yet been found for the fatal disease all but one of them shares.

Some residents at Birch Summer Project have not been as lucky in avoiding the

repeated infections that mark them as people with AIDS, not just people infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Carmen — not her real name — a 51-year-old mother of two grown children, wants to adopt a 15-month-old who is ill with AIDS. The baby, on medication since February, has survived a bout with pneumonia.

"But you never know what's going to attack him next," said Carmen, who also has a healthy adopted 5-year-old boy. "You wish you could do more," she said, rubbing the baby's back.

Phyllis Susser, executive director of Birch, frankly

admits the hardest part of camp is saying goodbye.

"There's a very good chance that it's goodbye forever to some of these people," the 54-year-old ex-schoolteacher said.

"AIDS is preventable. We know how. It takes money, it takes planning," she said at the end of a long day at camp. "There is so much more to be done."

Birch's other ventures — three schools for disabled youngsters and three homes, one for children with AIDS — receive state and federal funds, but the camp is funded entirely by donations from individuals, private foundations and corporations.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

COUNTRY MATTERS
By Dorothy B. Martin

ACROSS
1 Shadowbox
2 Clockmaker
3 Thomas
4 Love in Lido
5 Outlaw Jesse
6 Warsaw native
7 Kind of sandwich
8 Kind of beam
9 Of birds
10 Stranger in Sydney
11 Erie commune
12 Set aside for the future
13 Spanish gold
14 Williams or Denon
15 Discussion group
16 Tarnish purveyor
17 Rite
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New appointments criticised

(Continued from page 1)

too," an analyst close to government thinking told the Jordan Times.

True as that may be on the surface, government insiders say that cabinet members are not all in agreement on this policy of keeping a low profile, avoiding confrontation and working to keep everyone satisfied.

"We don't have to placate the Islamists yet," a cabinet minister says. "We have to use this time to introduce change and create awareness of the progressive thinking." He argues that the government has become so busy with keeping the Islamists at bay it is forgetting that the society can be opened up to other forms of thinking which are more in line with international trends.

According to an informed government source, there is a feeling among many politicians

that it is too early to decide to tip the scales in favour of the Islamists when the enactment of the new political parties law has yet to produce fruit and define the strength of the different political forces in the country.

"The other political parties have not yet operated openly like the Muslim Brotherhood and the government should not be behaving as if long political experience has produced the movement as the winner and as such it must be pandered to," the source argues.

Some ministers however, think that the appointments are being used as an excuse to lash out at the government for its good relations with the Brotherhood, especially when the appointment did include several non-Islamists.

"No-one is talking about the AUB (American University of Beirut) graduates or the introduction of a new concept in

choosing governors now requires a legal and economic vision," one minister said.

In answer to these charges politicians say that the Sharif Zeid government has established a framework for working relations with the Islamic movement, which is obviously heightening concern among secular groups that the regime is being slowly Islamised under the banner of democracy.

"Of course these appointments are done democratically, but what do they mean politically for the traditional secular?" a disgruntled government official asks.

Former Prime Minister Mudar Badran began the trend of open coalition with the Islamic movement when he struck a deal with the movement to support his government in 1989 by accepting a list of 14 conditions set by the movement. He later included five Muslim Brotherhood personalities in

his cabinet in 1990.

The trend continued with the election to a second term of House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat soon after the appointment of Sharif Zeid's government, according to this official.

"Now it seems we are on a roll with the movement gaining with government blessing and all other political trends are losing," another official maintains. This government's policy is being decided by a few cabinet ministers "who have the prime minister's ear," and does not reflect the opinion of the majority of cabinet members, he says. "There is no balance," the official stresses, "especially vis-a-vis the Islamists."

Even if that were true, "and it isn't," a senior official said, "this is a balanced, qualified political change and it definitely has a new approach which differs from the old one."

Israel budget

(Continued from page 1)

command a majority in the parliament.

The budget approved by the government reduces overall spending and increases investment in industry and infrastructure to create jobs.

Government officials said the

spending plan carries out Mr. Rabin's election campaign pledge to divert the funds spent by the previous Likud government in the occupied territories and invest the money to strengthen the economy within Israel.

The only minister to vote against the budget was Immigration and Absorption Minister Yair Tsaban of Meretz.

Israeli troops kill Palestinian

(Continued from page 1)

machinegun before police shot him dead, was denied a truck driver's licence for having aggressive tendencies, medical officials said.

The 25-year-old Mor also was discharged from the army 11 months after starting com-

pulsory national service.

Newspapers lambasted cracks in Israeli laws that enabled a man described in medical reports as dangerous to himself and others to carry weapons which he used in the slaughter at a mental health clinic.

Rabin: Syria will have to accept 'deal'

(Continued from page 1)

under," Mr. Hatan said. "It is the safest border as long as it takes Merikava (bank) an hour to get Damascus."

The Hadasot daily newspaper reported Wednesday that the Israeli delegation to the talks has sided, when the talks resume, press the Syrians to clarify what they mean by "peace agreement."

Israel wants assurances that Damascus will accept a peace treaty like the one with Egypt, which includes open borders, trade and diplomatic ties.

Meanwhile, Israel's foreign ministry approved the presence of three legislators at a conference in Portugal next week which will include a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) delegation, Israel Radio said.

Meetings with PLO officials re banned under Israeli law. Mr. Rabin's Labour Party says it will introduce legislation modifying the ban in the autumn.

Israel called on the European Community (EC) Wednesday to be an active role in the Middle East peace process by helping build a solid framework for talks and backing the establishment of a new regional development bank.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who is no a visit to London, also spoke of "almost national" progress in talks with Syria.

Mr. Peres said the EC, with Britain as its current president, could contribute to the success of multilateral talks aimed at bringing peace to the Middle East by helping to put the negotiations on more permanent footing.

"Europe can and should play a major role in the construction of the new Middle East, in the multilateral negotiations," Mr. Peres told a news conference. He said the EC contribution would

be in both the "structuring and content" of the talks.

Israel would be looking for support for the creation of a bank to underpin the economic future of the region, like the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) fosters economic reform in the former communist bloc in Eastern Europe.

"When it comes to content we feel the economic committee (in the peace talks) can introduce the idea of a development bank for the Middle East which can play a major role in creating an infrastructure for a peaceful Middle East," he said.

Mr. Peres discussed the proposals with Prime Minister John Major and Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd Tuesday. The British government said after the talks that Europe would do all that it could to speed up the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Peres also called Wednesday for the strands of the international peace process to be drawn together.

"It may be very useful to have them under the very same umbrella, at the same time and the same place, very much like the Helsinki negotiations ... to bring an end to the cold war," he said, referring to the Helsinki accords which established the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

Mr. Peres is visiting both Britain and France this week during a short recess in the peace talks to rally support for the peace process and to seek closer ties between Israel and the European Community.

He was upbeat about the chances of a thaw in relations between Israel and Syria. "The last 10 days ... are the best 10 days which have ever existed between Israel and Syria," he said.

GCC endorses 'no-fly' zone

(Continued from page 1)

"guests," implying Iranian sovereignty.

The GCC communique also rejected Iran's "continued occupation" of the neighbouring islands of Greater and Lesser Tunbs. Iran took the islands in 1971 from the UAE emirate of Ras Al Khaimah.

Both sides consider the islands of strategic importance because they are at the mouth of the Strait of Hormuz, the gateway to the oil-rich Gulf.

In Abu Dhabi, diplomats said the UAE was considering taking the Abu Musa dispute to the Security Council. The diplomats, who spoke on condition they not be named, said the UAE also planned to revive claims at the U.N. body over the other two islands.

In Doha, diplomats said the tension with Iran over Abu Musa had added urgency to discussions on the security of the Gulf, which straddles two-thirds of the world's proven oil reserves.

Egyptian sources in Cairo said Egypt, recognising the pact was not workable, was suggesting an alternative that would not involve stationing Egyptian or Syrian troops in the GCC states.

The pact, set up by the Damascus Declaration of March 1991, proposed deploying in Kuwait as the nucleus of a joint deterrent force Egyptian and Syrian troops who participated in the U.S.-led alliance against Iraq.

But the Egyptian and Syrian troops were quickly withdrawn from Kuwait when it became apparent they had overstayed their welcome. Kuwait and other Gulf states continued to host American and other Western troops.

The Cairo sources said Egypt would propose that the eight

states set aside "rapid deployment forces," ready to take part in any joint action.

The forces would be available if any country called for help and operations would be coordinated by a joint chief of staffs committee.

Diplomats would not speculate on the likely response at the two-day Doha meeting.

"The Egyptians will be saying look at Abu Musa," a diplomat said. "They will say: The U.S. is not going to rush in to help over Abu Musa. You have to rely on your Arab friends."

Diplomats said Cairo and Damascus pressed for the meeting to find out if the Gulf states were serious about the Damascus Declaration, once hailed as a model for Arab cooperation.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa, who will lead his country's delegation, calls it a make-or-break meeting.

Diplomats said Egypt was annoyed by the attention that Gulf were paying to Iran's opposition to the pact.

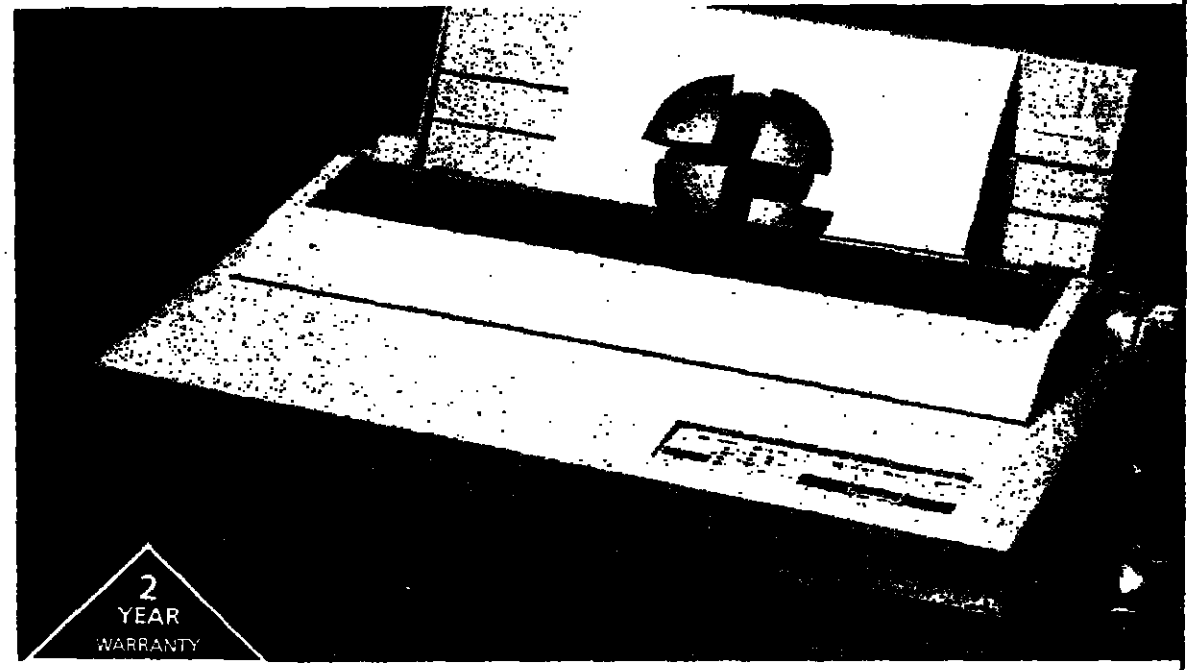
"Although Egypt recognises that Gulf Arabs need good relations with their big neighbour Iran, it sees Tehran's objections as an attempt to keep other Arabs out of the region and give itself a free hand," one diplomat said.

"Egypt is fighting for a role in the Gulf. Abu Musa looks like a Godsend," he added.

Syria, Iran's closest friend, appeared more concerned about political and economic aspects of the pact, such as winning more forthright backing for its stand at peace talks with Israel.

And like Egypt, it is keen to see some of the several billion dollars pledged under the agreement.

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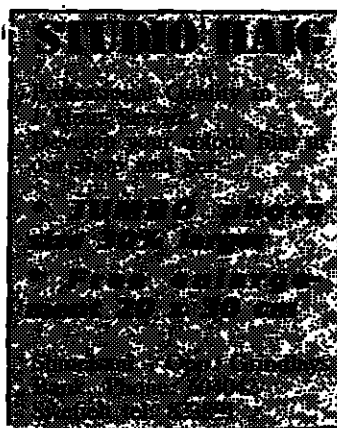
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Lendl outlasts Becker; Seles crushes Hy at U.S. Open

NEW YORK (AP) — Ivan Lendl doggedly marched past Boris Becker into the U.S. Open quarterfinals in the longest match since the advent of the tie-breaker in 1970.

After 5 hours and 1 minute, Lendl survived the war of attrition, angry words and often brilliant tennis, 6-7 (7-4), 6-2, 6-7 (7-4), 6-3, 6-4.

A renewal of one of the greatest rivalries in men's tennis, Lendl ended his 20th match against Becker at 12:47 a.m. Wednesday (0447 GMT) with a backhand passing shot — the same weapon Lendl used so effectively all night.

That closed out a long, long day of matches.

Stefan Edberg, the defending men's champion and No. 2 seed, got all he could handle from No. 15 Richard Krajicek before winning 6-4, 6-7 (8-6), 6-3, 3-6, 6-4 to reach the quarterfinals.

Michael Chang, No. 4, also went the distance to beat No. 14 Malivi Washington, 6-2, 2-6, 3-6, 6-3, 6-1 in the evening to set up a quarterfinal match against Wayne Ferreira, a 6-2, 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 winner over Emilio Sanchez.

It was the first time Chang reached the Open quarters, and it was Washington's sixth straight five-set loss, all in Grand Slam events, going back to the Australian Open in 1991.

The length of the Edberg-Krajicek match forced the shift of Lendl-Becker from day to night.

and from the start it was clear the match was going to last a long time.

Lendl, who will play Edberg, had lost all five of his previous Grand Slam meetings against Becker.

"It's nice because I always felt I have it in me, and it's coming together," said Lendl, who played in the longest previous Open match in the tie-break era, just under five hours against Mats Wilander in the 1988 final.

In other matches, Monica Seles demolished Patricia Hy 6-1, 6-2 despite a bout with a fever and virus.

"Yesterday my voice was gone totally, and today also," she said in a hoarse whisper. "I am supposed to take some antibiotics."

Seles will need all her strength in the semifinals to fend off Mary Joe Fernandez, a 6-2, 1-6, 6-4 upset winner over No. 4 Gabriela Sabatini.

Fernandez, taught a painful lesson she never forgot in an Open loss to Sabatini two years ago, reversed roles Tuesday.

Fernandez, seeded No. 7, used the same net-rushing, aggressive style that Sabatini suddenly and spectacularly adopted when she won the 1990 Open.

This time it was Fernandez rushing the net, risking winners, forcing the action, and Sabatini staying back. This time when Fernandez took the lead at the critical moment, she kept it, instead of letting it drift away as she

did then, 7-5, 5-7, 6-3 after leading the first set 4-1, 40-15.

It took Fernandez months to get over that loss, and it prompted her to change her coach and style. Harold Solomon began tutoring her in 1991, convincing her to get off the baseline and play aggressively at the net, and Fernandez showed just how far she's come against Sabatini.

The 21-year-old Fernandez, runner-up to Seles in the Australian Open this year, reached the Open semis for only the second time in eight years. Sabatini had not gone out of any other Grand Slam event before the semifinals this year.

Edberg sounded as if he were delighted to play in the fierce heat for more than four hours.

"When you push yourself for four hours, you always feel a lot better the next day, even if you are sore," Edberg said. "You are really feeling that you are hitting the ball well. I am sure that is going to be the case tomorrow. You need those, because it is not the same thing practicing for four hours. Playing a match like this, it is like 20, 30 hours of practice."

Edberg blew a chance to wrap up the match early when he sloppily slapped two volleys into the net at the end of the tie-breaker, and he looked like a loser when he fell behind 1-3 in the fifth set.

"To be down a break in the fifth set, it was not good news," Edberg said. "But somehow I

managed to get back in the match. I fought the way through."

And he had a little help from Krajicek, who let one ball float by that virtually cost him the match.

Krajicek was serving at 30-40, up a break at 3-2 in the fifth set, when he boomed a serve to Edberg's backhand. Edberg leaped almost horizontally to the court, stretching his racket and body as far as possible, and softly popped a windblown return. Krajicek had come in behind his serve but he had plenty of time to backpedal and put the ball away with an overhead. Instead, thinking it was going long, he let it drift over his head and watched dumbfounded as it landed 6 inches (15 cm) in from the corner.

That break-point was all the encouragement Edberg needed. He held at love to go ahead 4-3, and after an exchange of services, Edberg holding off two break points, he watched Krajicek make another crucial mistake — an easy forehand volley into the net at match point.

"This was a match I really wanted because I lost to him twice," said Edberg, who showed more emotion than usual, throwing a towel after losing the second set and punching his fist repeatedly in the fifth set. "I had never beaten Richard. I said to myself before today, I am going to give everything I have."

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Flame archer misses Paralympic medal

BARCELONA (R) — The Spanish archer who fired the blazing arrow which spectacularly lit the Olympic flame at the Barcelona Games has failed to win a medal in the Paralympic archery competition. Antonio Rebollo, a polo sufferer who won Paralympic silver in Los Angeles and bronze in Seoul, was eliminated in Tuesday's quarterfinal. Rebollo, 36, said that the special practice needed to fire the arrow 60 metres into the bowl of the Olympic flame on top of Barcelona's Montjuic Stadium at the opening of the main games and of the Paralympics had hurt his medal chances. But he was philosophical. "The medal everyone wanted me to win here I had already won with my two shots in the Olympic Stadium."

Filipino becomes WBA champion

TOKYO (AP) — Filipino challenger Morris East scored a technical knockout in the 11th round over Japanese champion Akinobu Hirakawa Wednesday, taking away his World-Boxing Association (WBA) junior welterweight title. Panamanian referee Carlos Berrocal stopped the fight at 1:47 of the 11th round of the scheduled 12-round bout when a thunderous left from East's knocked Hirakawa to his knees. Hirakawa, 28, and East, 20, the WBA's sixth ranked contender, exchanged heavy punches in a close range from the opening gong. The Japanese took the control of the match through the sixth round, attacking East's body. East, however, got his rhythm from the seventh round, attacking Hirakawa with left straights and right hooks and forcing Hirakawa to the ropes. At the time the fight was stopped, all three judges — Rodolfo Maldonado of Panama, Chalerm Prayadsab of Thailand and Yuh Wan-Soo of South Korea — had Hirakawa ahead by one to three points.

Brasilia ATP Tournament cancelled

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — The \$240,000 Brasilia ATP Tennis Tournament, due to be held in the Brazilian capital from Sept. 12 to 20, has been cancelled because of Brazil's political crisis, the organisers said Tuesday. Tawaric Promotions said in a statement that the decision was taken because of "the tense political atmosphere in the city and public demonstrations planned from Sept. 11 onwards." Brazilian cities have been the scene of

demonstrations against the government in the last month. The demonstrations have been peaceful but the Brasilia tournament is traditionally held at a temporary complex near to the Congress building. "(We) decided not to run any risks," said a statement issued by Tawaric. Jaime Oncins and Luiz Mattar of Brazil, Jaime Yzagola of Peru, Andres Gomez of Ecuador and Bryan Shelton of the United States were among the players due to take part.

Baseball commissioner resigns

NEW YORK (R) — Reluctant U.S. baseball commissioner Fay Vincent resigned Monday, effective immediately. In a three-page statement addressed to American and National League owners, Vincent said: "As requested in the owners' resolution of Sept. 3, 1992, and in accordance with its terms: I tender my resignation as commissioner of baseball, effective immediately. Eighteen of the 28 owners voted no confidence in Vincent last Thursday" while nine supported him and one abstained. In his statement Vincent said he believed the commissioner should act in the "best interests of baseball" while "some want the commissioner to represent only owners, and to do their bidding in all matters." "I haven't done that, and I could not do so, because I accepted the position believing the commissioner has a higher duty and that sometimes decisions have to be made that are not in the interest of some owners."

Le Mans to go it alone

PARIS (R) — Le Mans officials snubbed motor sport's governing body FISA Monday by announcing next year's Le Mans 24 hours race will be run as an independent event outside the World Sportscar Championship. The Automobile Club De l'Ouest (ACO) said it was opening the French classic to virtually any sports cars, with entries invited from the world, American and Japanese championships. The 1993 race will take place on June 19-20. To avoid a repeat of this year's low entry, Le Mans is readmitting turbos along with current 3.5 litre atmospheric Group C cars, and will also introduce a new open-cockpit prototype class, as well as reintroduce GT cars — which have not run at Le Mans since 1985. In place of fuel limitations which this year made the turbocharged Porsche and Toyota uncompetitive against the new generation 3.5 litre cars, will be air restrictors to equalise performance.

Syria still in lead at Pan-Arab Games

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria maintained its lead at the Pan-Arab Games at the end of the fifth day, capturing four more medals to bring its total to 32.

Events in four Syrian cities Tuesday included finals in weightlifting, cycling and the marathon.

Tunisia's Taher Hussein Al Mansouri won the men's marathon in 2 hours 21 minutes 32 seconds. Jordan's Ahmad Mohammed Al-Hamshari came in second, finishing in 2:22:58. The bronze went to Syria's Mosa Al Hariri, who finished in 2:35:29.

The competition for the women's marathon was cancelled because there were less than the minimum number of competitors.

The big surprise at the end of competition late Tuesday was Kuwait's 3-1 upset of African champion Algeria in volleyball.

Jordan raised eyebrows by drawing 1-1 in football with Egypt, one of Africa's best teams, in a qualification match for the second round of competition.

In the 90 kg weightlifting class, Lebanon's Hassan Al Qaysi took the gold with a snatch of 150 kg and a jerk of 192.5 kg for a total of 342.5 kg.

Syria's Abdul Rahman Al Musili won the silver medal with a snatch of 152.5 kg and a jerk of 175 kg for a total of 327.5 kg.

In the 100 kg class, the gold went to Egypt when Khaled Al Cami lifted 350 kg — 152.5 kg snatch and 197.5 kg jerk.

Syria's Hassan Al Sheikh lifted 347.5 kg — 147.5 snatch and 200 kg jerk — to capture the silver. Algeria's Hajji Salem secured third place with a snatch of 130 kg and a jerk of 160 kg, a total of 290 kg.

In team cycling over a distance of 100 km, the gold went to Algeria, whose team clocked 2:02:19. Syria took the silver in 2:03:33 and the bronze went to Tunisia, with 2:11:47.

Kasparov says Fischer is 'paranoid'

PARIS (R) — World Chess Champion Garry Kasparov has dismissed a \$5 million match between his predecessors Bobby Fischer and Boris Spassky as a mediocre contest between has-beens.

"There is confusion between the legend and the level of chess nowadays," he told Radio France in a telephone interview.

"I find this match well below expectations... the game is quite mediocre under 1992 criteria."

He said Fischer won the first game after Spassky, a Russian who lives in France, made a gross mistake and the American played the next two games poorly.

The two former champions are playing a repeat of their 1972 "match of the century" when Fischer won the world crown from Spassky in Reykjavik.

The score after the fourth game in the Montenegro resort of Sveti Stefan is 1-1, with two

draws. The first player to score 10 points will win the series, draws not being counted.

Kasparov ridiculed Fischer's claims to be presented as reigning world champion.

"It shows he is sick. In order to be the champion, you have to beat your contemporaries. But Fischer has only played three of the world's top 100 players," he said. "He is the champion of 20 years ago."

He also laughed off Fischer's charges that today's champions were cheating. "It is not necessary to answer such paranoia."

Kasparov said playing in the rump Yugoslav state despite a United Nations embargo on Serbia did not reflect well on chess. "My opinions would forbid me to play in that country," he said.

The world champion said the match was drawing attention to chess, which was good for the game.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 1992
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The Pisces Full Moon has both particular and negative aspects making it likely that you will find yourself dealing with persons with different backgrounds that may at first seem unpractical.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Watch for some unusual conditions to come into the open whereby you will be able to seize the chance to add modern improvements to any outside interest.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Some inventions that can be time and labour saving appear and you would be wise to snap them up and utilize in your own usual occupation.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Put new zest in enjoying whatever entertainments and amusements that appeal to you the most and be sure to take your mate along for more happiness.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) If you have been considering some improvements or backing up of your own residence, this is the perfect day to arrange to do so.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A pat on the back to one usual associate and a word of encouragement to another can make a very productive day for new record in the days ahead.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You like to have neat and tidy surroundings and today you

are also able to add some touches of colour, beauty, or some fine finish to them.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Consider well your own personal yearning for you can easily bring them right into your orbit of influence now and also improve your special charm.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Your day to yield to that desire you have so strongly to gain some information that intrigues you but that has been difficult to locate.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be just as cooperative with others as you possibly can for you now can make some big strides towards gaining aims by such an attitude.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Think about what you can do to build up a better accord with an outsider with whom you have any joint enterprises and gain their good will for the future.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Be sure to be open-minded and listen to the suggestions of others for today can bring some very worthwhile new interests in to your existence.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You can rely upon your intuitions as to the best course of action for you to take in connection with some person so don't procrastinate but do so.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 10, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a beautiful day and evening to rearrange your work and thought patterns and to obtain valuable tips for expanding and rounding out your future by asking those with know-how.

are more valuable can be done now by using your own best judgement in getting everything in perfect order.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Think up some personal things that you can do that will make conditions easier for the one of whom you are most fond, and so it can last for sometime.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Look into whatever friends your attachment likes and get them to be with the two of you for greater harmonious accord could then follow.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Despite the need for and some good consultation you can have with one able to be helpful to you don't neglect showing a close comrade your affection.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Your prestige can take an upswing by something you now do in public after which join with a longtime good pal at an appealing hobby.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Take some time out for getting into some new interests that can bring a lifting of spirits to both you and those of whom you are most fond.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your surroundings are the best place now to put all of that neat and/or artistic aptitude that is so much a part of your own particular ability.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"A magazine said this will make your lips fluffier and more kissable!"

JUMBLE

By Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

BOARR

OMPET

DENAIG

YARNEL

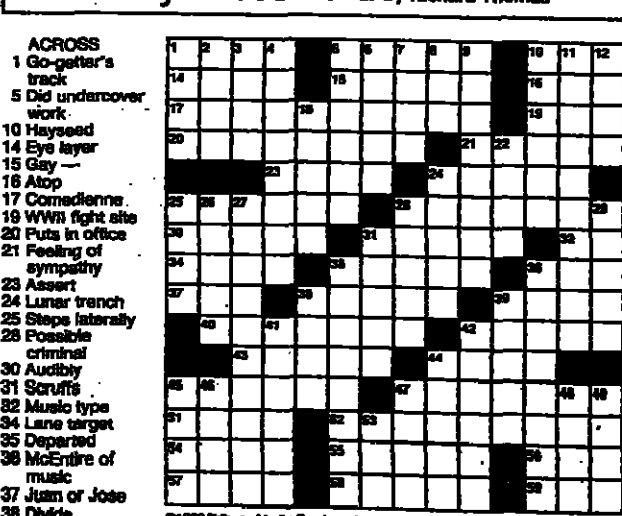
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: BOARR

Yesterday's Jumble: SOAPY ADULT GROUND TYPHUS

Answer: Why that party was so spooky — THE HOST WAS A GHOST

THE Daily Crossword by Richard Thomas



1 Go-getter's track
5 Did underover
10 Hayseed
14 Eye layer
15 Well
16 Allop
17 Comedianne
19 WWII fight site
20 Puts in office
21 Feeling of sympathy
22 Lumber trench
25 Steps laterally
26 Possible
30 Audible
31 Scruffs
32 Puts in office
34 Lane target
35 Departed of music
36 McIntire of music
37 Jam or Jase
38 Divide
39 Scoundrel
40 Sea TV dish
41 Two-pointer
42 Snake River city
43 Bite the — (be badly defeated)
45 Darn!
47 Night terrors
51 Walk wearily
52 Warm ocean
54 Organic compound
55 Post T.S.
56 Leprechaun land
57 Garden tool
58 Hoochkins
59 Sleazebag

7 Nettles
8 Always, to poets
9 Felt contempt
10 Steel shears
11 In trouble
12 Macchies
13 Eve's grandson
14 Spoke wildly
15 Jodel's range
16 Calcutta coin
17 Dunderheads
18 Hornet poem
19 Melema
20 Know how
21 Delay action
22 Nick of time
23 History
24 Kneaded
25 Made well
26 Tresses
27 Negative
28 Conductor
29 King of Gr. myth
40 Dr. Zhivago's love
41 Actor
42 Expensive
43 Bone from elbow to wrist
44 Rader image
45 Dent

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS: 1. GARDEN, 2. BIRD, 3. FISH, 4. INSECT, 5. PLANT, 6. ANIMAL, 7. BIRD, 8. FISH, 9. INSECT, 10. PLANT, 11. ANIMAL, 12. BIRD, 13. FISH, 14. INSECT, 15. PLANT, 16. ANIMAL, 17. BIRD, 18. FISH, 19. INSECT, 20. PLANT, 21. ANIMAL, 22. BIRD, 23. FISH, 24. INSECT, 25. PLANT, 26. ANIMAL, 27. BIRD, 28. FISH, 29. INSECT, 30. PLANT.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Jeff is 1/20

Pakistan may become sugar exporter

LAHORE (R) — Pakistan, a major sugar importer until a few months ago, is now self-sufficient and may start to export surplus production, industry officials say.

"We are reshuffling our strategy," Abbas Zia, a sugar importer and wholesaler at Pakistan's biggest market in Karachi, said.

Pakistan expects production to hit 2.6 million tonnes in fiscal 1992/93 (July/June), compared with 2.3 million in 1991/92.

Pakistan spent \$36.8 million on imports of 116,830 tonnes of sugar in 1991/92, compared with \$160.5 million on imports of 434,860 tonnes a year earlier, according to the Federal Bureau

of Statistics.

"We are now self-sufficient in sugar production," Mr. Zia said in an interview. "There is no need to import sugar."

Pakistan's sugar production rose sharply to 2.3 million tonnes in 1991/92 from 54 sugar mills, compared with 1.8 million in 1990/91 from 52 mills, Khadim Ali Qazilbash, secretary general of the Pakistan Sugar Mills Association, said.

Mr. Qazilbash agreed with Mr. Zia that Pakistan should now be able to stop spending precious hard currency on sugar imports. He urged a ban on new imports after the arrival of purchases already contracted.

However, Karachi sugar dealer Abdul Karim said Pakistan should build up a 250,000-tonne buffer stock since some of the crop is lost to smuggling to neighbouring Iran and Afghanistan.

Customs sources say about 100,000 tonnes of sugar is smuggled to Afghanistan and Iran each year across Pakistan's mountainous and sparsely populated borders.

Domestic consumption of sugar — including smuggling — rose to 2.4 million tonnes in 1991/92, compared with 2.3 million the previous year, Mr. Karim said.

"Consumption is likely to rise to 2.5 million tonnes in 1992/93,

leaving about 100,000 tonnes of exportable surplus," he said.

The 1992/93 crushing was expected to produce 2.6 million tonnes, said Mohammad Awaiz Qureshi, president of the Pakistan Society of Sugar Technologists.

"It will be more than sufficient for us," he said.

Mr. Qureshi attributed the record production to a liberal industrial policy adopted by the government. This policy includes requesting financial institutions to provide easier credit for those setting up sugar mills.

Production has also benefited from the use of high-yielding varieties of sugarcane.

U.S. insurers suffer worst year ever

MIAMI (R) — The trail of devastation left by hurricane Andrew will cost private insurers \$7.3 billion in south Florida alone, the most costly disaster in insurance industry history even before estimates for Louisiana are included, industry officials have said.

The total easily eclipses payments made in 1989 when hurricane Hugo battered the Carolinas and cost insurance companies \$4.2 billion — until then the industry's most costly catastrophe.

Andrew, packing winds in excess of 160 mph (260 kph) when it

hit the southern tip of Florida last month en route to Louisiana, levelled whole towns and left 85,000 homes in ruins. It killed 31 people in Florida and nine in Louisiana.

More than 685,000 claims are expected to be received in Florida as a result of Andrew, Gary Kerney, director of disaster services for the American Insurance Services Group told a news conference.

The group, an industry-funded disaster survey and assessment firm, said catastrophe losses so far in 1992 total \$11.2 billion, by far the insurance business' worst

year.

The loss estimate does not include uninsured damage to military facilities, roads, utilities, bridges and other government and public property, which would bring the total bill to over \$20 billion, Mr. Kerney said. It also does not include the damage costs in Louisiana.

"The damage was unprecedented in the United States. The worst I've ever seen," said Paul Landers, a veteran claims specialist for State Farm Insurance. "I started to wonder if this is what it looked like after the bombings in Iraq."

An estimated 250,000 people were left homeless as a result of the damage.

Transportation Secretary Andrew Card told reporters the

government would reimburse individuals rebuilding their homes for some costs not covered by insurance.

The White House said Washington would pick up 75 per cent of such uninsured costs, or up to \$11,500 per household.

Prior to Andrew, April's riot in Los Angeles, which cost insurers \$775 million, was the biggest claims payout of the year followed by hail and tornado damage in the Midwest and south, and the water main break that flooded downtown Chicago last spring. The total insurance payout for disasters was about \$3.5 billion this year.

Last year's fires in Oakland, California cost insurers \$1.2 billion, while the 1989 San Francisco earthquake cost \$960 million.

IBM creates global PC company in new business offensive

NEW YORK (R) — International Business Machines (IBM) Corp., eager to maintain its place on the cutting edge of the computer industry, has said it would start a new company to handle its personal computer (PC) business.

The new company, which would be the world's largest personal computer maker with annual revenues of \$10 billion, will try to evolve into a more flexible competitor in the fast-moving PC market.

It is the latest in a series of moves by IBM, the world's largest computer maker, to become more responsive to market shifts and shed its image as a lumbering giant.

Industry analysts said it would rid IBM of a conflict between the demands of its traditional mainframe business and small computer divisions.

"This whole thing is about speed — faster development and a faster distribution system," James Cannavino, general manager of IBM's Personal Systems Business, said in an interview.

IBM will use the new company as a vehicle to sell a revamped

line of PCs aimed at the low end of the market. Mr. Cannavino said the new unit is "geared and positioned and has the right product set to gain market share and grow as a business."

The move is part of a restructuring launched late last year by IBM.

The new company is responsible for developing, manufacturing, distributing and marketing IBM PCs worldwide.

IBM formed the new company ahead of the expected introduction of four new PC families over the next six to eight weeks, Mr. Cannavino said.

He declined to say when the new PCs will be announced, but an IBM source said a new line of personal system 1 machines for homes and small businesses will be launched Wednesday. The other three lines of high-end PCs for businesses, mid-range PCs and notebooks will follow.

Mr. Cannavino rejected any ideas that IBM was trying to shed an underperforming business and that the company should get out of PC hardware altogether.

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Iranian oil income exceeds expectations

NICOSIA (R) — Iran earned more than \$45.7 billion from oil and gas exports in the three years to March 20, exceeding official projections, Tehran radio quoted Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh as saying.

Mr. Aqazadeh, in a detailed report to parliament, said Iran's oil production capacity stood at 3.8 million barrels per day (b/d) and would soon top four million when the Salman field in the Gulf came on stream, the radio reported.

"Hard currency income from exports in the past three (Iranian) years was more than \$45.7 billion, a performance better than levels projected in the (five-year) plan and budget," it quoted the minister as saying.

He did not say by how much

earnings had exceeded expectations during the three-year period.

Iran, which pumped 3.3 million b/d in August according to a Reuters survey, earns most of its hard cash from oil exports.

Mr. Aqazadeh said offshore production capacity would reach 500,000 b/d by March 20, 1993. Exploration targets of the five-year plan to March 1994 have so far been fully met, he said.

The natural gas network served more than 110 towns and cities and the number was expected to rise to 200 by 1994, he said.

Mr. Aqazadeh, who has come under attack for recurrent winter fuel shortages, said people should be encouraged to save on consumption of kerosene, which is still widely used for heating and

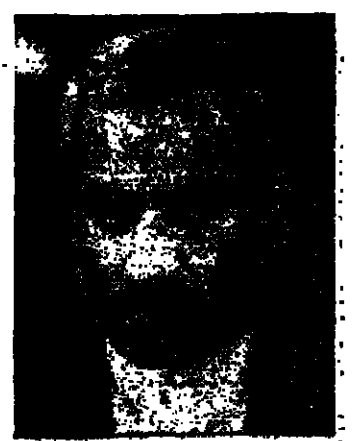
cooking.

In another area, Iran expects wheat imports to drop by a million tonnes this year because of a rise in the domestic crop.

The Iranian news agency IRNA quoted the head of the State Grains Organisation, identified only as Mr. Teyrani, as saying that Iran would import only 2.5 million tonnes of wheat this year.

"This official said that in view of the increase in the production of wheat, Iran's import of this crop this year was expected to decrease by one million tonnes to 2.5 million," IRNA said in a report monitored in Cyprus.

Mr. Teyrani said his organisation expected to buy a total of four million tonnes of wheat from farmers in the current harvest.



Gholamreza Aqazadeh
A shortage of grain warehouses meant that 900,000 tonnes of wheat were being stored in open spaces but 18 silos were being built across the country, he added.

Spain steps up privatisation plans

MADRID (R) — Spain, fighting to control a soaring public sector deficit, has set its sights on a privatisation drive despite less than encouraging prospects on world stock markets.

In contrast to the previously cautious Socialist government statements on surrendering state enterprises, officials now say there is no reason to keep control of such corporations.

"The number of companies that can be retained by the state can be counted on the fingers of one hand," Industry Minister Claudio Aranzadi said this week in Seville.

The push to sell state firms takes place with debate heating up on the 1993 budget, due to be unveiled this month and widely

viewed as vital to restoring confidence in economic policy after this year's deficit ballooned to nearly five per cent of gross domestic product (GDP).

The new budget, which the government says aims at a central government deficit of 2.57 per cent of GDP, is similar to 1992. The government has not yet given a forecast for the wider overall public sector deficit.

Private economists and market analysts said that, with spending cuts a sensitive issue ahead of a general election due next year, privatisation appears to be a useful alternative as a way of curbing the deficit.

Main candidates include oil group Repsol S.A., state airline Iberia Lineas Areas de Espana

S.A., utility Empresa Nacional de Electricidad S.A., as well as other units of state holding group Instituto Nacional de Industria (INI).

Economy Minister Carlos Solchaga has said privatisations could raise 420 billion pesetas (\$4.6 billion) up to 1994, although he noted this would not be enough to plug the deficit. It would amount to less than one per cent of GDP in one year.

While companies like Repsol and Endesa are attractive targets for private capital, and are cheap at present market prices, the investment climate could not be worse with high interest rates and recession looming.

Mr. Aranzadi acknowledged the financial markets were little

prepared to absorb large-scale privatisations, especially with similar campaigns under way in Britain and Italy.

But he said Spain will press ahead with its own plans, and expected INI subsidiaries to go to the market in the near future. Among these are electronics firm Inisel-Coselsa and aviation firm Construcciones Aeronauticas S.A.-CASA.

Repsol has already confirmed plans for an international share placement in November that will probably take state ownership below 50 per cent from the present 64 per cent. Banco Exterior de Espana S.A., at present around 70 per cent state owned, is another firm candidate for part privatisation.

Italy prepares to end 'baby pension' system

ROME (R) — Italy is preparing to end a generous and much abused early retirement scheme for state employees, which the media has dubbed the "baby pension" system.

Under existing law, state employees can seek retirement after just 20 years of service. Terms are even more favourable for women with children who can sometimes qualify for a pension after less than 15 years in state employment.

The system has been abused with a number of employees using a disability clause to retire when suffering minor ailments. Italian newspapers have in the

past launched mocking campaigns to find the nation's youngest pensioner.

The government now is seeking to reform the pension system as part of a broader attack on Italy's runaway budget deficit.

A parliamentary budget committee has approved a measure which means that public sector workers will in future have to work 35 years before qualifying for their pension, a government spokesman said Tuesday.

The change, which must be ratified by parliament, would be phased in over the next decade and bring state employees into line with private sector workers.

China voices fear over rate of growth

PEKING (R) — China's ever-accelerating pace of economic growth is beginning to resemble an express train, and many officials are worried it may have lost its ability to brake, an official newspaper has said.

"How long can our current fast speed of economic growth continue? when will the 'express train' turn into a 'slow train'?" it asked the Economic Information daily.

The newspaper's analysis of China's economic situation is a clear sign that soaring indicators for gross national product (GNP) growth, investment, capital construction and raw materials prices are beginning to worry Peking.

While officials have repeatedly said the GNP growth rate of 12 per cent for the first half of 1992 is no cause for alarm, many economists say privately it appears China could be hurtling once again into a boom period that would be followed by a bust.

"Our country has had 22 straight months of high economic growth," the newspaper said in the article, entitled "how long

can the express train continue?"

"The pace of growth has prompted discussion both at home and abroad on whether the economy is overheated," it said. China's latest estimate for first-half GNP growth came last week, five months after conservative Premier Li Peng first suggested a target of six per cent for the year.

China's GNP grew by seven per cent in 1991, and has averaged about nine per cent over the past 13 years.

The newspaper listed factors behind China's economic performance so far this year. It said: "Contradictions are accumulating swiftly behind the fast growth figures."

Industrial production has risen by 19 per cent from January to July. Investment by state-owned enterprises jumped by 35.6 per cent. Consumer product sales were up by 14.2 per cent.

Numbers like these might gladden the hearts of leaders in the West, but in China they carry heavy political dangers.

In the late 1980s, a similar spiral of growth led to rampant inflation of as much as 30 per cent, which was insupportable for

most Chinese consumers, who live on fixed incomes.

Anger over inflation was one of the reasons behind the 1989 Tiananmen square pro-democracy protests, which Peking eventually crushed with tanks and troops on June 4 that year.

It also prompted a three-year austerity programme on the economy to bring things back under control. That programme was announced to have been ended in March, following senior leader Deng Xiaoping's renewed campaign for faster growth.

While official Chinese statistics say inflation remains at a manageable level of about five per cent nationally, the economic information daily pointed out disturbing trends in the indicators.

Investment in fixed assets — one sign of just how much money is loose in the economy — jumped by 28.5 per cent in the first half of 1992 compared to the same 1991 period. The figure for the whole of 1991 was only 18.6 per cent, the paper said.

The newspaper said the structure of new investment was becoming irrational.

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Shots on U.N. force said to come from Bosnian government - held town

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — French U.N. officers said Wednesday that the machine-gun fire that killed two French peacekeepers escorting a U.N. convoy came from a suburb held by Bosnian government forces.

The attack occurred Tuesday near Sarajevo Airport, where a vital airlift of humanitarian aid was suspended. After an Italian aid plane was downed last Thursday, clashes have raged for days around the airport.

U.N. spokesman Yusuf Khalaf said investigations were still under way and that it was not yet known who fired on the convoy, which appeared to have been directly targeted. The gunfire lasted at least five minutes.

Two French peacekeepers were killed and two slightly wounded, Mr. Khalaf said.

French U.N. officers, who are not allowed under U.N. rules to give their names to reporters, said Tuesday's attack came from the suburb of Butmir, a government stronghold. Both Serb militias and Bosnian government forces have positions near the airport.

Four U.N. peacekeepers in Bosnia have been killed and 46 wounded since June. Four Italian airmen were killed in the plane crash — officials say the relief plane was shot down.

The airlift had been a lifeline since June for nearly 400,000 people left in Sarajevo, which is surrounded by Serb fighters. There was no immediate danger of starvation, but officials warned of shortages of drugs, chlorine for purifying water and fuel for generators in the hospitals.

U.N. officials said it was unlikely the airlift would resume soon because governments providing planes wanted stronger security guarantees. And now

Tuesday's attack raises questions about the safety of the convoys.

The airlift had brought in some 220 tonnes of supplies daily. With its suspension, Sarajevo now depends on land convoys that deliver only about 50 to 80 tonnes a day.

A spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said the convoy attacked Tuesday was travelling a road the UNHCR had been planning to use to expand its relief effort during the suspension of the airlift.

"But now there's no way," she said. "We're in trouble."

Lord Owen, co-chairman of an international peace conference on former Yugoslavia, said Wednesday that he believed the attack would put more strain on the land convoys, but not stop them.

Lord Owen spoke to the British Broadcasting Corp. in London before departing for Zagreb, Croatia. He and co-chairman Cyrus Vance, a former U.S. Secretary of State, were to travel first to Zagreb, then Thursday and Friday to Sarajevo and Belgrade, the Serbian and Yugoslav capitals.

Mr. Vance told Swiss Television Wednesday that negotiating safe passage for humanitarian supplies was one of the main issues that would be discussed.

In Paris, U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali said Tuesday that he would support the use of air power to protect relief shipments to Sarajevo and other parts of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

However, Marrack Goulding, U.N. undersecretary-general for peacekeeping, told reporters in New York that no combat air patrols were planned yet.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, meanwhile, sent a let-



A Serbian soldier grabs a bite during a lull in fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

ter to Lord Owen, Mr. Vance, Dr. Ghali and French President Francois Mitterrand, in which he blamed Croats and Muslims for new offensives and accused the international community of bias in the Bosnian conflict.

He said sanctions, like those imposed on Serb-dominated Yugoslavia as punishment for fomenting warfare in Bosnia, should also be slapped on Croatia.

Serb forces in Bosnia have captured about two-thirds of the country's territory in six months of warfare. Croats claim control of about 30 per cent.

"Peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina can be established immediately if the international community wishes so," Mr. Karadzic said in the letter, carried by the Bosnian Serb News Agency (SRNA). "It is necessary to treat all the sides equally."

Mr. Karadzic has pledged to place all heavy guns around Sarajevo under U.N. supervision before a U.N. deadline Saturday.

In another development, power and water were restored to Sarajevo's main hospital and the first surgeries were planned with flowing water since Aug. 29, the hospital chief said.

Mr. Vance and Lord Owen condemned the killing of two French officers in Sarajevo, but it is a tragic event. It is murder," Mr. Vance told Reuters as he left Geneva's Palais Des Nations to fly to the region for talks with political leaders and heads of the warring Bosnian factions.

"Something ought to be done to get such people, if one can, to try them, and let justice take its course," said the former U.S. secretary of state.

France Wednesday called the

ANC mounts fresh challenge to homelands

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The African National Congress (ANC) Wednesday pressed ahead with a challenge to apartheid's black homelands that has increased fears of widening conflict in South Africa.

Activists in tiny Qwa-Qwa, smallest of the 10 homelands created under apartheid's grand strategy of rigidly separating blacks and whites, said thousands were gathering under the gaze of police and troops to demand the resignation of chief Minister T.K. Mopeli.

Up to 28 people were killed and 200 wounded Monday when security forces opened fire on a similar ANC demonstration in Ciskei, another quasi-autonomous homeland 500 kilometres south.

Demonstrators in Qwa-Qwa, in the eastern Orange Free State, were to march on a police station in the capital Phuthaditjhaba, also to demand an end to police harassment of ANC members and in memory of the death of Ciskei, said local official Molekane.

"With a serious violent confrontation looming between the community and the Bantustan machinery, from Ciskei across to Qwa-Qwa, the people of Qwa-Qwa will once again knock at the door of the government to say 'away with the Bantustan system' an ANC statement said.

The ANC, led by Nelson Mandela, regards the homelands as illegitimate offspring of apartheid and fears the possibility of an alliance between President F.W. De Klerk's National Party, which created them, and many homeland leaders for the country's first democratic election.

The government says the homelands are independent states despite the refusal of the ANC and the international community to recognise them, and their future must be settled by negotiation and not confrontation.

The slaughter in the Ciskei has thrust the issue to the forefront of a logjam of arguments and recriminations preventing the ANC and the government from resuming negotiations on a non-racial transitional government.

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Column

Romanian gypsies crown their king

BISTRITA, Romania (R) — The new king of the Romanian gypsies was crowned before thousands of his followers in the grounds of a monastery here Tuesday, and swore to try to overturn centuries of contempt for gypsies as social outcasts.

"Long live King Ion Cioaba, king of all gypsies," some 5,000 gypsies shouted as an Orthodox priest laid a solid gold crown on the head of their new king in a ceremony that would have been unthinkable a few years ago.

I am now the Bulibasha (king) of all gypsies," Cioaba, 57, told reporters at the ceremony in the southern village of Bistrita. "I'm a king now and I will fight for my people not to be humiliated anymore."

Stalinist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, toppled and executed in the December 1989 anti-Communist revolution, harshly repressed Romania's gypsy minority. They were branded as second-class citizens and stereotyped as parasites.

Soap opera gets Kyrgyz farmers in hot water

MOSCOW (R) — The management of a collective farm in Kyrgyzstan has cut off all electricity in the complex to try to turn workers away from a trendy television Mexican soap opera and get them back in the fields.

ITAR-TASS News Agency said Wednesday that residents of the remote Central Asian settlement of Konstantinovka had their power cut by farm directors desperate to compete with the 249-part serial, The Rich Also Cry. The 13-year-old escapist drama of a troubled Mexican woman searching for happiness has won a fanatical following across the former Soviet Union. Many see it as the perfect antidote to seemingly endless political and economic chaos. Its popularity has been blamed for everything from a drop in crime rates — there are too few victims on the streets during broadcasts — to dangerous increases in water pressure as viewers suspend evening dishwashing to tune in. On Monday, ITAR-TASS News Agency said a performance of Swan Lake at Russia's famous Bolshoi Theatre came to a virtual halt after people spotted the soap opera's heroine, actress Veronica Castro, during the interval.

Even Marx bought stocks, China says

PEKING (R) — China has dragged into service the father of communism, Karl Marx himself, in its ongoing effort to justify the development of capitalist-style stock markets.

Marx turns out to have been a punter on the London Bourse, the Peking Youth News said. "It doesn't take much time to do this, and if you are willing to risk a little bit, you can grasp money away from your opponents," the newspaper quoted Marx as telling friends.

Citing what it said were historical documents, the newspaper said Marx cleared about \$400 from stock transactions in London in 1864. The seed money was borrowed from his friend and comrade, Friedrich Engels, it said.

"The pity of it is that his capital was too small," the newspaper concluded.

Dummy police cars slow speedsters

LONDON (R) — Plastic cut-out police cars could be used to slow speeding motorists in Britain.

The government-run Transport Research Laboratory Tuesday said experiments on a motorway in Lancashire, northwest England, showed speeding drivers slowed dramatically when they spotted a plastic patrol car propped on an observation platform.

"The experiments were designed to examine cheaper alternatives to dramatically stepping up the police presence," the laboratory said, adding more experiments were planned.

Madonna to launch 'dirtiest-ever' sex book

NEW YORK (R) — Get ready for a new Madonna sex shock — a coffee-table sex book complete with tattooed, bare-breasted lesbian skinheads posing with the controversial singer. The book "Sex," 128 pages of highly-sensative photographs of a usually nude Madonna along with her frank comments on the subject, is being published next month by Warner Books. In a preview of the book, Vanity Fair magazine called it "the dirtiest coffee-table book ever published" and said it could trigger a debate on whether it was pornography or art.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

5 killed as talks start in Georgia

TBILISI, K. Georgia (AP) — Five people were killed in fighting in the Abkhazian region of Western Georgia Wednesday, hours before Russian, Georgian and Abkhazian officials opened peace talks, authorities said. The five were killed and 20 others wounded after Abkhazian forces crossed the Gunista River near the town of Achadara and attacked Georgian units from the rear, the press centre of the Georgian Defence Ministry said.

The shootings could hurt Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze's efforts to end fighting that flared in the region after he sent troops there last month. The soldiers were deployed in an effort to drive out armed supporters of Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the Georgian president ousted in January. But Abkhazian officials claimed the move was also an attempt to forcibly block their drive to form an independent republic.

Nigeria threatens to 'crush' Taylor

MONROVIA (R) — Nigeria's ambassador in Liberia has warned that West African peacekeepers will "crush" Charles Taylor's rebellion. The envoy made the threat Monday hours after the ECOMOG peacekeeping force announced it was withdrawing its men from Taylor-held territory because of fears for their safety.

The ambassador, Henry Ayorinde Ajakaiye, said ECOMOG arrived two years ago to "stop the carnage" between Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) and forces loyal to late President Samuel Doe. "Now it is our turn. We are poised to crush Taylor's rebellion at all costs. And the costs will be very heavy. We are on the moral ground," Mr. Ajakaiye said at the Monrovia launch of a new magazine, New Vision, Nigeria, West Africa's giant, has the biggest contingent in the 7,000-strong ECOMOG and is bearing much of the heavy but undisclosed cost of maintaining it. The envoy's remarks betrayed mounting frustration in the region about the failure to end the Liberia conflict, which is nearly three years old and is swamping West Africa with arms.

N. Korea strengthening military power

SEOUL (AP) — Communist North Korea is strengthening war capabilities by producing more tanks, missiles and vessels despite its serious economic problems, military officials said Wednesday.

South Korean Defence Ministry officials also said the North's military exercises have increased sharply since August despite inter-Korean peace accords adopted earlier this year. South Korea sees the North's military buildup as particularly alarming because its isolation was deepened by the normalisation of ties Aug. 24 between Seoul and Peking. China has been closely aligned with North Korea since the Korean peninsula was divided in 1945. In a report Tuesday, Maj.-Gen. Suh Won-Shik, a leading analyst of North Korean affairs, warned that there may be a seed of war in North Korea's heightened military capacities. The report showed North Korean troops increased from 995,000 last year to 1,010,000 this year, compared with South Korea's 665,000. The numbers of North Korean tanks, artillery, missiles and combat ships had also risen, it said.

Japan scandal is snowballing

TOKYO (R) — Japan's latest corruption scandal appeared Wednesday to be snowballing with reports that prosecutors may soon bring charges against a top ruling party figure and question aides to two former premiers.

The Tokyo Prosecutors' Office is preparing to file charges against Shin Kanemaru, Japan's most powerful behind-the-scenes politician, for violating limits on campaign donations, according to news reports attributed to prosecution sources. Mr. Kanemaru resigned two weeks ago as vice president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) after admitting he took 500 million yen (\$4 million) in undeclared funds from Sagawa Kyubin, the trucking firm at the heart of the growing scandal. On Tuesday, prosecutors began questioning a senior aide to former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, one of a dozen senior LDP figures said to have taken illegal contributions from Sagawa, according to the Mainichi Shimbun daily. Another former premier on the list, Yasuhiro Nakasone, also faced implication as prosecutors prepared to summon his aides for questioning over reports that he took illegal Sagawa funds.

N. Korea, Slovenia establish ties

TOKYO (R) — North Korea has established diplomatic relations with Slovenia, Pyongyang's official news agency said Wednesday. A joint communique signed in the Slovenian capital of Ljubljana Tuesday said the two countries agreed to open diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level, according to the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) monitored in Tokyo.

Unionists walk out of N. Ireland talks

BELFAST (R) — Two leading Protestant Unionists Wednesday walked out of talks intended to restore peace in Northern Ireland.

Fierce preacher-politician Ian Paisley and his deputy Peter Robinson left the talks in a dispute over the Irish Republic's constitutional claim on the British province.

Britain is seeking to return

Yeltsin reportedly postpones Tokyo visit

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin Wednesday cancelled a planned trip to Tokyo which had been due to start next week, a senior Russian Foreign Ministry official said.

"We are not entitled to make official statements but the visit has been postponed," the official, who asked not to be named, told reporters.

The Foreign Ministry official was speaking after a meeting of Mr. Yeltsin's Security Council discussed the ill-omened trip.

Interfax News Agency, quoting what it said were Japanese sources, said the visit had been put off until December.

It made no mention of Mr. Yeltsin's trip to the South Korean capital Seoul, which he was due to visit on his way back to Russia from Tokyo.

No one at the Japanese or South Korean embassies in Moscow was available for comment.

In Tokyo, an official of the Russia Division of the Foreign Ministry said he had heard the report that Mr. Yeltsin had cancelled his visit but nothing was confirmed.

NHK public television said Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa rushed to his official residence to receive an emergency call from the Russian president.

A spokesman for the official residence later confirmed he has already arrived there.

Mr. Yeltsin's press office declined to confirm or deny the Interfax report and said an official statement was expected.

Mr. Yeltsin earlier abruptly cancelled a news conference on the trip, due to take place on Sept. 13-16.

The Russian leader had been due to discuss a territorial dispute over four islands seized by Soviet troops at the end of World War II which Japan is demanding back.



claim to Northern Ireland had long been considered by Unionists and the government from resuming negotiations on a non-racial transitional government.

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Bush courts Jews, Clinton pledges to rebuild economy

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President George Bush courted Jewish voters and sought \$7.6 billion in hurricane relief on Tuesday while challenger Bill Clinton promised factory workers he would revitalise withering U.S. manufacturing.

It was a day of contrasts less than two months before voters either give the Republican president a second term or put a Democrat in office for only the second time since Lyndon Johnson left the White House in January 1969.

Mr. Bush stayed in Washington, performing official and campaign functions, which are becoming mingled in this campaign year.

First he asked Congress for \$7.6 billion to aid victims of hurricane Andrew in devastated parts of the politically-important southern states of Florida and Louisiana. Florida's Democratic Governor Lawton Chiles expressed gratitude but said more money is needed.

And in a political gesture to mend sometimes-tattered relations with Jews, Mr. Bush went a few blocks from the White House to woo the small but politically active Jewish vote.

At the B'nai B'rith, a Jewish service organisation that Mr.

presidential campaign.

In Connecticut in the northeast, U.S. Mr. Clinton promised workers his economic plan, which includes tax incentives for businesses, would revive the dwindling U.S. manufacturing base.

At a Connecticut plant the Democrat played a familiar role in trying to keep the campaign debate focused on the struggling U.S. economy, which he blames on republican policies for 12 years under Mr. Bush and predecessor Ronald Reagan.

"Unlike our competitors this nation has no national strategy, no comprehensive partnership between business and workers and education and government to create the kinds of high-wage, high-growth jobs in manufacturing that I think are critical to our future," he said.

The United States has lost 1.3 million manufacturing jobs and had a real decline in manufacturing wages of five per cent, he said.

While Mr. Clinton tries to make the economy the dominant issue, he keeps getting sidetracked by lingering questions over how he received a draft deferment in 1969 while a Rhodes scholar at Oxford University during the

questioned Mr. Bush's "veracity" and alleged "support for illegal conduct" in the Iran-contra plan.

Meanwhile, Vice President Dan Quayle is telling Californians their economic troubles are unique and would just get worse with Bill Clinton in the White House.

Mr. Quayle winds up his three-day west coast stint here Wednesday with a morning rally, a tour of a local biotechnology company, Myconex Corp., and a Rotary Club speech on President Bush's blueprint for creating jobs. He flies back to Washington Wednesday night.

In Los Angeles Tuesday Mr. Quayle said the country was "technically out of the recession," but added, "California, unfortunately, has unique problems."

The Golden State's problems include defence industry cutbacks triggered by the end of the cold war that have helped push the unemployment rate here to about 10 per cent and left President Bush lagging far behind Bill Clinton in the polls.

But Mr. Quayle warned, "Bill Clinton will cut an additional \$60 billion out of defence, which means an additional tens of thousands of people thrown out of work."